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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 83

www.saipantribune.com

THURSDAY APRIL 27, 2017

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

75¢

CNMI to impose tax on casino

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog said the CNMI government is looking to impose additional taxes on the new gaming industry once the casino begins its operations on its permanent facility at the Imperial Pacific Resort.

Vice speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) introduced House Bill 20-31 or an act that would impose a 5-percent tax on all gaming revenues in the CNMI in order to prevent any deficit in a significant and consistent manner.

Hocog said the idea of a taxing system similar to the Tinian Dynasty & Casino also came up when they initiated legislation that allowed a lone casino on Saipan. "The mag-

See CASINO on Page 4

USMC: Section 106 consultation meetings to protect resources

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Parties for the Section 106 consultation met yesterday at the Office on Aging conference room in Chi-

na Town. The purpose of the meeting, the second after the group also held a separate discussion on Tinian on Monday, is to identify both the historic and traditional culture

See USMC on Page 4

BMV chief: Ogumoro assisted Manglona in registering DPS car

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicles director Juana C. Leon Guerrero testified yesterday that then-DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro assisted Herman M. Manglona in 2012 in registering a 1995 Toyota Tercel car owned by DPS and subsequently sold to Manglona for \$50.

At the ongoing jury trial of Ogumoro and Manglona in Superior Court, Leon Guerrero, who testified for the government, said Ogumoro went to

her office and asked her to help Manglona register the Toyota Tercel in Manglona's name.

Leon Guerrero said Manglona was with Ogumoro.

Manglona is the brother of Ogumoro's spouse.

The BMV director said she took the vehicle registration application form and filled it out for Manglona, and that Ogumoro signed for it.

Leon Guerrero said she advised Ogumoro that it has to be Manglona who should sign the form.

Leon Guerrero said she got the information that she filled in

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro walks behind his counsel, Mark B. Hanson, during a recess yesterday in Superior Court. Ogumoro and Herman M. Manglona (not in the photo) are on trial for corruption charges.



INSIDE



LOCAL

The Marianas Visitors Authority is undertaking several media tie-ups in Japan this month to promote summer travel to the Northern Marianas.

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ASIA

An international human rights watchdog is calling on Southeast Asian leaders to take a stand against the Philippines' war on drugs.

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LIFE & STYLE

An expanded lawsuit filed Tuesday accuses Fox News Channel of racial discrimination "that appears more akin to Plantation-style management than a modern-day work environment."

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Local

Larson says Manibusan did not adhere to ethical standards

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson has asserted that Attorney General Edward Manibusan did not adhere to ethical standards of the Model Rules of Professional Responsibility as it relates to the issue of conflict of interest.

As such, Larson, through counsels Matthew T. Gregory and Kimberly Kay King-Hinds, said Manibusan and his office must be disqualified by the Superior Court from continuing as counsel and or party to the AG's lawsuit against her.

In Larson's reply to Manibusan's opposition to her motion to disqualify, Gregory and King-Hinds pointed out that the constitution does not exempt the AG from the Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

Gregory and King-Hinds said pursuant to Model Rule 1.7, disqualification is appropriate based on a directly adverse relationship between two clients of an attorney or of a firm if there has not been full disclosure of the concurrent representation and the consent of both clients has not been obtained.

The lawyers said the AG's broad general assertions and citations to case law recognizing the unique status of the AG does not address how he has not violated Model Rule 1.7.

The lawyers said the fact remains that Larson is still represented by the AG in multiple litigations and other matters as they pertain to the

Department of Finance.

Gregory and King-Hinds said while it is a fact the AG has appointed independent counsel to represent Larson to represent her in this matter, albeit after he has sued her and failed to properly secure her informed consent pursuant to Model Rule 1.7, he has not absolved himself of the continued conflict which arose when he became a party in this lawsuit.



Larson

Gregory and King-Hinds said historically, inter-governmental disputes have been resolved through a certified question.

The lawyers said contrary to the AG's assertion, this is a case of first impression as there has never been a case in the history of the Commonwealth where the AG has sued an agency he is constitutionally mandated to represent.

In Larson's motion to disqualify, Gregory asserted, among other things, that as the chief legal officer of the CNMI government, the AG is constitutionally mandated to advise and represent the Finance Secretary, in her official capacity, on many matters pertaining to Finance.

Gregory noted that these actions by the AG against his client, Larson, raises serious concerns of conflict to the NMI Model Rules of Professional Responsibility.

Gregory said Manibusan's conduct violates Model Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.7 given the fact that he is suing an existing client.

In Manibusan's opposition to Larson's motion to

disqualify, Manibusan said he is only exercising his obligation to uphold the CNMI Constitution in filing with a lawsuit that seeks to enjoin Larson from paying the governor, lieutenant governor, and lawmakers the increased salaries found in Public Law 19-83.

Manibusan, through counsel Office of the Attorney General Civil Division chief Christopher M. Timmons, said he found himself faced in this P.L. 19-83 issue with a choice between two obligations: to uphold the Constitution and to defend the government.

Manibusan chose the obligation to uphold the constitution and allowed a skilled attorney in private practice to perform the obligation to defend the government, said Timmons in the AG's opposition to Larson's motion to disqualify him (Manibusan).

Gregory has been designated as special assistant attorney general to represent Larson in this case.

Timmons said Manibusan essentially self-disqualified from representing Larson in this action.

Manibusan's lawsuit alleges that Public Law 19-83, which provided the salary increases, is unconstitutional because the Advisory Commission that recommended such increase was not validly constituted, and that such increase recommended by the commission for the Legislature exceeded the change in an "accepted price index" since the last time the salary was adjusted.

Manibusan asked the court to issue preliminary and permanent injunctions to prevent Larson from implementing the law.

Hocog signs proclamation honoring Corrections officers and employees

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog yesterday signed a proclamation designating May 7-13, 2017 as CNMI Correctional and Employees Week.

Based on Proclamation 5187 signed by Ronald Reagan in 1984 creating "National Correctional Officers' Week," the proclamation gives the men and women of the CNMI Department of Corrections the recognition and honor for the contributions and accomplishments

made by them.

The CNMI recognizes that Correction officers and employees are equal in status and importance with other professionals in the administration of justice. They are successful in providing effective correctional services and efficient programs to inmates and the community.

The proclamation also assured the public that no escapes, disturbance, or unrest occur in the Corrections facility by fostering a healthy environ-

ment for the inmates, treating them humanely, and making sure their needs are met.

It added that the CNMI Department of Corrections works under demanding circumstances, as its men and women face danger on a daily basis and constantly risks their lives by being exposed to potential harm. But even under such circumstances, they are able to perform their duties in the most professional and dedicated manner. *(Bea Cabrera)*



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Representatives of all the 18 groups that will take part at the 2017 Marianas March Against Cancer got on stage for a group photo with the MMAC committee, Commonwealth Cancer Association staff, and acting governor Victor B. Hocog at the proclamation signing yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan Hibiscus Hall.

First week of May proclaimed MMAC Week

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

A proclamation was signed yesterday designating April 30 to May 6 as Marianas March Against Cancer Week.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States, according to data from the American Cancer Association. Nearly half of the male population and a third of the female population will develop cancer in their lifetime.

Although everyone is susceptible to cancer, it is also just as preventable. Most types of cancers can be reduced or avoided through healthier life choice. Abstaining from smoking, healthier food choices, and physical activities can help in reducing the risk of cancer.

The Marianas March Against Cancer is the signature event hosted by the Commonwealth Cancer Association to recognize all cancer survivors and to remember all the people that lost their lives to the battle against the epidemic.

MMAC is also an event that is held to acknowledge caregivers who have dedicated their lives in assisting cancer patients and to empower the community to join in the battle against cancer.

Proceeds raised from the event will be donated to the Commonwealth Cancer Association to carry out the mission of the association. The association's mission is to prevent cancer as much as possible through detection and prevention education, advocacy, efforts to reach out to the community, and patient services.

The 2017 MMAC established 18 teams for this year's

event. The teams consist of Imperial Pacific, Marianas High School, the CNMI Government, Joeten Charitable Foundation, Grace Christian Academy, IT&E, Saipan Southern High School, Lady Diann Foundation, Northern Marianas College, Marianas Resort and Spa, Hopwood Junior High School, Mount Carmel School, MyPros, Bridge Capital, Northern Marianas Football Association, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Talaabwogh Star, Tanholdings, Kagman High School Tribe Marianas, Triple J, and Lancheros Middle School.

A plaque of appreciation was also presented to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for its donation of \$12,000 worth of shirts at the proclamation signing held yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

MMAC chair Carol Pete told the media that the Commonwealth Cancer Association along with the MMAC board would be having multiple fundraisers in celebration of the Marianas March Against Cancer Week.

May 5 will be the MMAC event. The entire community is invited to join and participate in all the activities that will be held at the event.

The MMAC will be on May 5 starting at 6pm until May 6 at the Hopwood Middle School field.

The MMAC team and the Commonwealth Cancer Association urges the community to join to help spread awareness, recognize survivors and those who have lost the battle to cancer, and to thank all those who have assisted in the battle against the epidemic.



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PSS adapts ASCA national standard finally

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

After nearly a decade of discussion, the Public School System finally approved yesterday the adaption of the American School Counselor Association standards, a set of national standards to be followed by school counselors island-wide.

Associate commissioner for the Office of Student and Support Services Yvonne Pangelinan, who is also a former counselor, was ecstatic upon learning the news that

PSS would be adapting the ASCA national model foundation, laying out a proper curriculum for counseling as opposed to leaving it to the counselors' researching capabilities for programs.

The ASCA standards, which was first published in 1997, sets 35 mindset and behavior standards to identify and prioritize specific attitudes, knowledge, and skills students should be able to demonstrate as a result of a school counseling program.

The standards, obtained by

research, are used to assess student growth and development as well as guide the development strategies and activities to create programs that help students achieve their highest potential.

The ASCA is divided into three domains, namely the academic development, career development, and the social and emotional development. Each domain promotes enhancements to the students learning process with career readiness in mind.

"When I report this to the school counselors, they

would be elated. It has been eight years since they have proposed the ASCA standards," Pangelinan told media yesterday.

According to Pangelinan, school counselors have always relied on best practices that have not had ASCA standards adapted as compared to teachers, who had the common core curriculum and school systems that had standards through advanced education.

"Finally, our school counselors could have something to guide their

curriculum to guide their classroom guidance and to involve their decision and policy making working with families, administrators, and the school staff to build their counseling program," shared Pangelinan.

The ASCA proposal to the board yesterday included a cultural competence component, so that counselors are always keeping close to "the culture in the CNMI," as well as a trajectory of the counselor-to-student ratio and a five-year plan to bring the counseling

program up to the standards the ASCA requires.

"Our school counselors are required to have a counselor-to-student ratio of 250:1. The five-year trajectory would show the plan for each of the schools that are under the ratio as well as the projected budget that would be spent to bring up the school district to the ratio of 250:1," said Pangelinan.

According to Pangelinan, the projected cost to bringing counselor-to-student up to the ASCA standard is \$500,000.

CASINO

From Page 1

nitude of the investment was so big and what former governor Eloy S. Inos have negotiated is what we take to be the starting point."

"Back then we have a lot of compelling issues and problems that need to be addressed immediately. For most of it is the [NMI] Retirement [Fund] pension plan. We agreed with what then governor Inos came up with during the negotiations to ensure Retirement would benefit or retirees would be saved from being depleted."

He added that during the course of the negotiations they

asked the investor to provide an upfront of \$30 million to take care of some problems. The Commonwealth Utilities Corp., in October 2014, got \$10 million from the money and was used to pay Saipan residents' utility bills.

Hocog said the CNMI government is hoping that the casino would generate the revenue that they were expecting, income that would benefit the people of the Commonwealth, once the casino is fully operational.

"To make sure we take care of the problems ahead of us and those in the past. The result of the casino license fee to make sure we provide the retirees with the 100 percent

benefit," said Hocog.

"To impose a [higher] tax aside from what they had already assisted to us during the time when we have nothing, I think we should give them time to establish a permanent footing that even them and us will be comfortable enough that we will not experience the same things 10 years ago."

He added that the CNMI would not have addressed some of the issues back then if not for Imperial Pacific International LLC's investment. "Where do you think the retirees would be or most of the government employees? Not only we're going to experience a reduction in working hours but also in furlough."

"But because of this, we were able to sustain and we have not issued a reduction in hours like an austerity measure. Now that we do realize that we have revenue, let us give them time to stabilize their development. I know they have been hit by a lot of glitches, but it doesn't mean that we will not come back and ask for more taxes that would benefit the people."

House Bill 20-31

Maratita's bill, if it becomes law, would impose a 5-percent tax on the gaming revenues just like in other countries were a casino is operating. The bill is already in the House Ways and Means committee

of chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan).

House minority leader Rep. Edwin S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) said Maratita's bill is still being discussed since House legal counsels are at the opposite sides of the said measure.

"One is saying it is unconstitutional to apply it to IPI and saying it won't apply to IPI. The other legal opinion that it will [apply to IPI] and it does when it becomes a law," said Villagomez.

"The only way into this is to amend the contract. The vice speaker has requested two written analysis on both opinions so she could have a solid information to look at."

Maratita said the new gaming industry is largely untaxed and she thinks HB 20-31 would tax them in a fair and reasonable manner. "The exclusive license fee that is paid currently is arguably a fair price for a legal monopoly, but even an entity that enjoys exclusive gaming rights should be paying their fare share of taxes.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said in an earlier statement that the casino would be taxed. "When you encourage casino gaming, you start an investment and eventually we should tax it. No ifs, no buts. Definitely we will tax them, but we need them to get the investment started first."

USMC

From Page 1

resources in the CNMI.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of "their undertakings on historic properties and afford the advisory council on historic preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment."

Hawaii-based United States Marine Corps Forces Pacific operations and training expert Chris Harris said there would be a series of consultations where they would discuss how to protect, minimize, and mitigate any harm to historical and

traditional resources.

"This is a candid situation where we are making sure we would properly identify everything that is important and how to mitigate any harm to these cultural properties," Harris told *Saipan Tribune*.

He added they have not held consultations in two years and they plan to have a series of meetings, hopefully every month.

Harris said Section 106 consultations had nothing to do and is separate with the 902 Talks and discussions on the military. "Any type of proposed action we have to consult, a regulatory consultation of Section 106 to make sure we meet the requirements."

"Over the course [of the meetings], we're going to have an agreement with the CNMI [Historic Preservation Office]. Basically, we will agree on how are we going to protect the resources identified as culturally and significantly important," said Harris.

He added that the two meetings, on Tinian and Saipan, are the start of a series of consultations. "The two meetings are to identify the people that have the knowledge on the background of historical and cultural sites. This is to make them a consultant and have them part of the group."

'No to CJMT'

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick

San Nicolas, meanwhile, said he remains opposed to the proposed activities under the Commonwealth Joint Military Training-Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

San Nicolas said he welcome any federal agency to Tinian but it does not mean that he is endorsing the proposed CJMT. "I stand by the comments I submitted in 2015 as well as my remarks in the 902 meetings in Washington, D.C. and in Honolulu, Hawaii."

"I join the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, and CNMI agencies in opposing the proposed CJMT."

He added the U.S. Department of Defense received

more than 28,000 comments most of which oppose to the proposed CJMT. "It appears to me that they are still committed to pursuing high hazard impact live-fire training on Tinian."

"The people of Tinian remain steadfast in our opposition to CJMT. Moreover, regardless of whether Section 106, NEPA or 902 for that matter, results in an amended version of the CJMT, the people of Tinian reserve the right to criticize or even oppose any amended version of the CJMT proposal."

San Nicolas said the DoD seemed determined to move forward with their plans despite the Tinian community's

opposition. "It seems clear to me that despite our community's vehement objections to activities which will adversely impact the cultural, physical, and social landscape of our island, DoD is intent on moving forward with their plans."

"Their plans to use live fire training on Tinian. As I have stated many times before, these plans are entirely unacceptable and will continue to be unacceptable for as long as certain components are not completely taken off the table," said San Nicolas.

"Of primary concern is the high hazard impact and live fire training activities which to [the Tinian] island community is non-negotiable."

BMV

From Page 1

the form from the bill of sale that Ogomoro gave her.

Asked by assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley why she filled up for Manglona's information, the director said it's because Manglona came out to pay the registration fee at the Judiciary building.

She said Ogomoro stayed behind in her office while Manglona made the payment.

Leon Guerrero said Man-

glona later came back to BMV after making the payment.

Leon Guerrero said all the requirements were submitted for the car registration.

The director said the bill of sale, which is one of the requirements, was signed by Procurement and Supply director Herman Sablan and Manglona.

Leon Guerrero agreed with Ogomoro's counsel, Mark B. Hanson, during cross-examination that Ogomoro was very proactive at that time in fixing DPS vehicles and that the goal

was to have better DPS services.

She said she had no problem with Ogomoro at that time.

Leon Guerrero provided to investigators a copy of a purchase order for repair and maintenance for 13 government vehicles in the amount of \$10,070. One of the vehicles was the Toyota Tercel, which was repaired for \$2,500.

During cross-examination by Manglona's counsel, assistant public defender Tillman Clark, Leon Guerrero agreed that Manglona did not work at DPS at that time.

After Leon Guerrero's testimony, Procurement and Supply supply specialist 2 Anthony Sablan Manahane testified for the government.

Manahane said Ogomoro requested their office to conduct "survey vehicle for auction" the 1995 Toyota Tercel.

Ogomoro's memorandum to Sablan requested that the appraisal value of the car be approximately \$50.

Manahane said he never saw the Toyota Tercel and that he never inspected it because he was not instructed to do so.

Manahane said he had no determination of the value of the car, as it was Procurement and Supply director Sablan who did it.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom at 4:10pm, Manahane was still on the witness stand.

Also testifying yesterday for the government were DPS information technology network administrator William Rathburn, Grace Santos of Saipan Computer Services, and Revenue and Taxation's Pam Halstead.

Ogomoro and Manglona are on trial on corruption charges.

Ogomoro allegedly brought the Toyota Tercel to an auto shop in 2012 for repairs using DPS funds totaling \$2,500 and sold it three days later to Manglona for \$50. Ogomoro also allegedly ordered a DPS staff to bring a DPS desktop computer to a shop for repairs using DPS funding in the amount of \$276. The computer along with other DPS property was later used in the office of True North Bar & Grill owned by Ogomoro, according to the charges.

Efforts underway to 'translocate' native birds to Guagan

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The preservation of native birds in the Northern Marianas was discussed at the Saipan Rotary Club weekly meeting held last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

CNMI native birds like the Fruit Dove and the Rufous Fantail are at risk of extinction. The Department of Land and Natural Resource took it upon itself to call for assistance in re-stabilizing the population of these native birds by seeking partnership again with the Pacific Bird Conservation.

Pacific Bird Conservation president Peter Luscomb enlightened Rotary Club members that the non-profit is assisting DLNR through the Mariana Avifauna Conservation plan.

The MAC plan is a program that deals with the translocation of certain species of birds to uninhabited islands.

tion of certain species of birds to uninhabited islands.

Translocation is done to insure that there will still be native birds for generations to come. Translocation, according to Luscomb, is the capturing of birds and manually migrating them to an uninhabited island within the bird's native region.

According to Luscomb, 50 birds of each species will be translocated to the island of Guguan.

The process of translocating these birds will start with capturing them from Saipan. Luscomb said it takes two weeks straight to capture the amount of birds that they need. Because it takes a while to collect all these birds, Luscomb and his team are in charge of handling the birds with care before they are translocated.

After capturing the birds, Luscomb and his team tag the birds with a band around



Luscomb

their ankles and different color combinations of bands so that DLNR and local biologists who will be studying the birds and their progress can tell each bird apart.

Once the birds have been tagged and are secured in their temporary cages, Luscomb and his group will transport them by boat to the island of Guguan where they are set free. Once all of that has been done, the rest of the team that are enlisted to carry out the rest of the project will do their part. Guguan is located 125 nautical miles north of Saipan.

According to Luscomb, the team that will be carrying out this project will consist of Luscomb's team members, field workers of DLNR, one veterinarian, a bird keeper, and a couple of local biologist that will record the progress of these birds.

DLNR will be there to ensure that the birds are safe from people or any animal that may cause the birds distress.

Veterinarians will be there to make sure none of the birds are injured from the trip and will make trips consistently to ensure that the

birds are healthy.

Bird keepers are there to make sure that the birds have all that they need to live off of Guguan and that they repopulate.

Biologists will be there to study the progress of the bird's re-population.

Luscomb said it will take roughly about \$100,000 to carry out the entire program and another \$25,000 to cover the Pacific Bird Conservation team's lodging and food.

The team will carry out the program starting next week, May 2.

AAG hires private counsel to appeal ruling she committed prosecutorial misconduct

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A prosecutor is appealing in her personal capacity and not in her capacity as an assistant attorney general from Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's determination that she committed prosecutorial misconduct during a jury trial.

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub hired a private counsel, Colin M. Thompson, to represent her in the appeal to the CNMI Supreme Court.

Weintraub, through counsel Thompson, notified the Superior Court on Tuesday about her appeal.

In her appeal, the prosecutor seeks Supreme Court's reversal of Camacho's bench finding last March 22 that she committed prosecutorial misconduct, Camacho's March 28 oral order denying her written motion for reconsideration, and the subsequent judge's order on March 29.

Thompson said because Weintraub is appealing only Camacho's express findings that she committed prosecutorial misconduct in the March 22 oral finding and the March 29 written order, and because her appeal from an express finding of prosecutorial misconduct is civil in nature, she believes there is no appellee.

However, Thompson said, if there is an appellee, then it should be David James Aguon.

Weintraub prosecuted the case against Aguon on charges that he assaulted Navy veteran Christopher Broome inside the White and Black Bar in Garapan in March 2016.

Weintraub is appealing from Camacho's finding that she (Weintraub) had committed prosecutorial misconduct by deliberately disobeying the court's suppression order.

Specifically, Camacho found that, by asking Detective Flora Aguon about the weight of the attacker listed in her report, then asking the detective to estimate the defendant's weight, and then asking that the record reflect that the individual pointed out was the defendant, that Weintraub had circumvented the court's suppression order to have the detective identify the defendant as the attacker.

In the middle of the jury trial last month, Weintraub moved to dismiss the case against Aguon. She said dismissal is for the best interest of justice after they discovered some new information.

Camacho granted the prosecutor's motion.

Attorneys Victorino DLG Torres and Matthew Holley represented Aguon in that case.

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By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has yet to issue a decision on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board due to a sudden invitation to testify at a U.S. Senate committee hearing tomorrow.

Torres will testify on House Resolution 339, or the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act. The bill is authored by Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) and seeks to increase the number of people allowed to apply for the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program.

In a statement made by the Torres administration, Torres

Torres’ trip to DC delays decision on CUC board

failed to arrive at a decision regarding the termination of the CUC board due to an invitation by U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources chair Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), dated April 21, 2017, to testify for HR 339 tomorrow, 10am EDT.

The statement also added that another factor that weighed in on Torres’ failure to arrive at a decision was the “necessary preparation for those meetings that have taken a considerable amount of time.”

The Torres administration’s statement ensured that the CUC board would be provided a reso-

lution upon Torres’ return.

“The governor is very aware of his commitment to coming up with a resolution regarding the Board soon, and will do so in a manner that is transparent and has the Corporation, the ratepayers, and the community’s best interests at heart,” said the Torres administration in a statement to *Saipan Tribune*.

“He is also very cognizant of his commitment to ensuring that our economic development, our progress, and our pursuit for achieving a greater standard of living for the people who call these islands

home continues,” the statement added.

Torres told members of the media last April 20 that he would be issuing a decision on multiple calls for the termina-

tion of CUC board members due to recent allegations of multiple conflicts of interest on the emergency procurement of an 8- to 10-megawatt engine for Saipan. Members

of the CUC board include CUC board chair Adelina Roberto and directors Eric San Nicolas, Ignacio Perez, Albert Taitano, David Sablan Jr., and Joseph Torres.

CUC safety officer arrested for alleged possession of ‘ice’

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. safety officer was arrested for alleged illegal possession of 13 gross grams of methamphetamine or “ice” after a Customs K-9 dog detected drugs during a routine inspection on passengers departing Saipan to Rota at the Commuter Airport on Tuesday afternoon.

Benjamin Jason Inos Manglona, 37, was arrested for illegal possession of controlled substance and trafficking of a controlled substance.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a \$100,000 cash bail on Manglona and set the preliminary hearing for May 2 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Manglona. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

Customs Officer III Maynard D. Reyes stated in his report that last Tuesday afternoon, Customs specialist 1 Mark Palacios conducted a routine K-9 inspection on passengers at the Commuter Airport and that K-9 dog Ben “responded” to passenger Manglona.

Two Customs officers instructed Manglona to proceed to the Customs arrival area for further inspection.

At the arrival area, Manglona was informed that the K-9

dog was trained to respond to drug odor.

Reyes said after asked if he had any drugs on him, the defendant took out a small plastic container containing a small glass pipe, believed to be a drug paraphernalia.

During the inspection of Manglona’s backpack, Reyes said he noticed three items wrapped in tissue.

Upon inspection of the tissue, Reyes said he discovered three small baggies containing 13 gross grams of crystalline substance that was later tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine.

The Drug Enforcement Task Force was then called for further investigation.

» K-9 dog detects meth from defendant at commuter airport

Koblerville fire station to aid south side

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Jose Terlaje Ada Fire Station reopened last Thursday, April 20, after undergoing a couple of months of renovation. The building was then known as Koblerville Fire Station No. 4 and was renamed to honor the former Division of Fire chief through Saipan Local Law 16-13.

It went through some

facelift through a community development block grant courtesy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. Expanding the station and installing roll up grills are some of the improvement done by contractor HBR International Inc. Saipan.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres led the ribbon cutting ceremony where Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services Commissioner Clyde K. Norita, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, EMS Advisory chair Esther S. Milne, and NMHC deputy corporate director Zenie P. Mafnas and planner Jacob Muna were also in attendance.

Reps. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan), Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), Gregorio Sablan (R-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and Alice Igitol (R-Saipan), Rev. Fr. James Balajadia, and Pastor Frederick Fatialofa where also present during the ceremony.

The station provides service to southern portion of Saipan that include the villages of Chalan Piao, Koblerville, Dandan, As Lito, San Antonio, and the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport among others.

The station’s EMS staff was among those that quickly responds to emergencies on the island and deploys 22 ambulances in a day.

Demapan said this is one of the reasons why communities on southern Saipan could sleep comfortably at night. “The station is vital to the people of Saipan’s south side, especially with development also happening here. People can sleep comfortably knowing that they would always be protected.”

Torres said the project was completed through the strong collaboration of NMHC through the CDBG and funding from the local government. “Having and Fire-EMS station in the area is the vital role of the safety of San Antonio, Koblerville, and nearby areas. It keeps the well-being of the community intact.”

DFEMS received a \$130,000 funding from the CDBG through the help of NMHC. The grant was from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and is among the projects NMHC had helped in funding through HUD.

Norita said NMHC had been helpful with DFEMS’ request. “It was in March 2015 when we asked for a grant to NMHC. Since Day 1, they have been very helpful and assisted us with our request. The funds are a big help with our projects.”

Muna said the Susupe and Kagman fire stations were also renovated along with the one on Rota, which also received a new ambulance. The Tinian Fire Station got a new fire-truck and equipment that cost over \$200,000.

NOTICE OF NORTHERN MARIANAS TRADES INSTITUTE NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the institute. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarships and loan programs, and other institute-administered programs.

NMTI



CIP PROGRAM OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Victor B. Hocog
Lieutenant Governor

INVITATION TO BID ITB17-GOV-130

Purchase of Tractor Mower for Tinian DLNR

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) office, are soliciting sealed bids for the **Purchase of Tractor Mower for Tinian DLNR**, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package is available at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building on Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining a package at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid meeting will be held at Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor at the Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill on April 20, 2017, 10:00 a.m. All inquiries regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. Saipan local time on April 25, 2017, to the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan or via email to esb.cip@gmail.com (Elizabeth Balajadia, P.E., Project Manager) or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective contractors.

Sealed bids must be marked **“ITB17-GOV-130”**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, May 10, 2017. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, May 10, 2017, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 10, 2017 and must be received no later 10:00 a.m. than May 17, 2017. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m., ChST, May 17, 2017. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will open at 2:00 p.m. Saipan local time, on May 10, 2017.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Government Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per day, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor

Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply



SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board hereby gives notice of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting set for Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 9:30 am at the Mayor of Saipan Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Ladera Center Building, Beach Road, Saipan.

A G E N D A

- Preliminary Matters**
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes from March 16, 2017
- Public Comments**
- Reports**
 - Administrator
 - Chair
- COMMITTEES**
 - Committee on Awards
 - Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
 - Committee on Policy and Procedures
 - Committee on Program and Development
 - Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
- Old Business**
 - SHEFA on Disability
 - NMTI Request for Open Enrollment
- New Business**
 - Spring 2017 Application Status
- Executive Session – Appeals (closed)**
- Misc.**
- Next Meeting**
- Adjournment**

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

SCS Art Show and Writers Showcase this Friday

The community is invited to Saipan Community School to attend its SCS Annual ART Show and Young Writers Showcase tomorrow, April 28, beginning 6pm at the SCS Chapel.

Website implements 'Five Dragon' rating system

The "Feel Like Home" (www.feellikehome.cn) website is the world's first website aimed exclusively at Chinese travelers. It helps hospitality professionals (hotels, restaurants, etc.) throughout the world to make the necessary changes to their businesses to adapt to Chinese customers, making their experience in a foreign country as pleasant as possible.

For that reason, FLH is implementing the "Five Dragon" Rating System, based on the scale of five dragons, certifying their degree of adaptation to the needs of Chinese travelers.

The rating starts with one Dragon, where the hospitality company (hotels, restaurants, etc.) website is translated into Chinese and hosted on the FLH website at the same time taking the FLH-

The SCS ART Show is a wonderful opportunity to view and appreciate the diverse art curriculum offered at our school. Showcased on this evening will be a wide variety of student pieces.

accredited stamp and lasts up to five Dragons, where the company should have an employee who is fluent in the Chinese language.

Professionals of tourism, depending on the size and nature of their business, pay a small fee to enroll as members and an annual subscription fee to get their website translated into Chinese and get posted on the FLH platform (www.feellikehome.cn), obtaining their first Dragon and paving the way for the company to a market of 120 million Chinese travelers per year.

More than 150 hospitality companies all over the world have applied and are in the process of evaluation and certification to receive the seal of Feel Like Home and join the network of FLH-accredited companies. **(PR)**

Student artwork ranges in complexity from kindergarten through 8th grade. It is a goal at Saipan Community School to provide students with an exceptional art education. We seek to nurture the artistry and creativity in each and every one of our students.

SCS Young Writers Work-

shop will be displaying written work from Kindergarten all the way through the 8th grade. This part of our event is to promote poetry and creative writing in our school.

"There is such inspiring young talent in our school," said SCS principal Amanda Allen Dunn. "We're so blessed to have this opportu-

nity showcase and share their talents in both these areas."

Join us! Seeing the talent from the next generation of artists and writers is very inspiring and exciting. But, no one is more excited to see the show than a student who has her very own artwork and/or written work on display.

If you are interested in

learning more about Saipan Community School and/or the learning opportunities we offer from Kindergarten through 8th grade, please contact Amanda Allen Dunn, principal via email: principal@saipancommunityschool.com, call our offices at 234-6687, or come visit us on Beach Road in Susupe.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sewer odor in Sadog Tasi, Puerto Rico, Lower Base, Garapan areas

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a sewage odor in the Sadog Tasi, Puerto Rico, Lower Base, and Garapan areas starting Thursday, April 27, through Wednesday, May 17.

The Sadog Tasi Treatment Plant personnel will be removing accumulated sludge from the treatment plant site and hauling it to the landfill starting April 27, 2017 and continuing intermittently until May 17, 2017. Strong odor is expected as the pile is disturbed for transport and

may persist until sludge removal is completed.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(CUC)**

JKPL front parking lot closed April 27-29

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library front parking lot will be closed temporarily this Thursday evening at 6pm, April 27, to Saturday, April 29, 4pm in preparation for Week of the Young Child Informational Fair (Satur-

day, April 29, 2017).

Available parking space will be located at the rear, with additional parking at the neighboring Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hours will remain open Tuesdays-Fridays from 10am to 6pm and Saturdays from 9am to 4pm. We apologize for the inconvenience. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library at 235-7323(READ). **(JKPL)**

Naddu reunion starts Friday

The Leonardo (Naddu) reunion will start this Friday, July 28, with Mass at 6pm at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

On July 29 the celebration continues at 11am at the baseball field on Capitol Hill with delicious food followed by entertainment and games, etc.

Every Thursday, we meet at 5:30pm. The meeting starts on time at 6pm at the kiosk by the post office in Chalan Kanoa. Everyone of the Naddu family is invited. Please come to the weekly meeting if you can. **(PR)**

SSHS mid-progress report distribution today

Saipan Southern High School will be distributing its students' mid-progress reports today, April 27, from 3pm to 6pm on school classrooms. **(SSHS)**

SCRATCH & WIN FUEL & PHONES

Purchase \$15 of fuel and scan your Lucky 7 card to receive a scratch card for the chance to win free stuff! Win \$1 in free fuel or a \$10 IT&E prepaid card instantly, or fill out the entry form for a chance to win our weekly drawing of a Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge or iPhone 7. Fuel, scratch and win at your nearest Shell station today!

*While supplies last. Some conditions apply. See store for details.



iPhone 7



Galaxy S7 Edge

All set for Tinian San Jose Fiesta this weekend

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas and the Tinian Leadership is inviting the community to attend this year's Tinian San Jose Fiesta.

This year's fiesta will be held at the Kammer Beach Main Pavilion with a soft opening held yesterday, April 26, 2017, and the opening ceremony set for tomorrow, April 28, beginning 6pm.

The fiesta will run until Sunday, April 30. This year's event will consist of live band entertainment from Wednesday to Saturday, 6pm-12 midnight.

In addition to local artists, the San Jose Fiesta will be featuring Joe McCarrel (J.D. Crutch's son) on Friday and Saturday evening and Chris Boomer on Saturday evening. Other events include sports tournaments as well as competitions that are open for registration on specific days.

The Tinian Fishing Derby (6am-5pm) and the Tour De Tinian 100K Mountain Bike Race (6am- 2pm) are also scheduled for Saturday, April 29.

In addition to the great live entertainment booked from

the April 26 to the evening of April 29, the San Jose Fiesta will have Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair L.J. "Finasisu Mestisu" Castro and Chris "Malafunkshun" Barnett serving as emcees.

Vendors will also be selling food and drinks and other games. The Municipality of Tinian is extremely excited for this year's San Jose Fiesta.

To support the San Jose Fiesta, Star Marianas will be flying between Saipan and Tinian from April 27 to 29 up to 9:30pm (Please call

Star Marianas at 433-9996 for reservations).

Additionally, van shuttle services will be available from 9am to 9:30pm from the Tinian Airport to the Kammer Beach Pavilion and back every hour. For those who wish to camp during the event, a camping site has been designated right next to the event with restroom and shower facilities made available.

The Municipality of Tinian extends its appreciation to the San Jose Parish Council, Rev. Father Rey Rosal, the Tinian Mayor's Office staff, the 16th

Tinian Municipal Council, the 20th Tinian Legislative Delegation, the 2017 San Jose Fiesta Steering Committee, volunteers, vendors, and of course the sponsors.

"I would like to extend a special appreciation to our Matua Level Sponsor in the Marianas Visitors Authority who donated over \$15,000,

our Acha'ot Level Sponsor in Docomo Pacific who donated over \$3,000, and our Manachang Level Sponsors in IT&E, Tan Holdings, & Marpac who each donated \$3,000 each. On behalf of the People of Tinian, we thank you all for your generosity in making this year's event successful," said San Nicolas. **(PR)**

JRM to hold Programmatic Agreement Workshop

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas will hold its annual Marine Corps Buildup Programmatic Agreement Workshop at the Guam Museum today, April 27.

Signatories and consulting parties will meet all day to discuss progress of the 2011 Programmatic Agreement and ways ahead for future collaboration. The Programmatic Agreement is developed under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and provides guidance for the mitigation of potential adverse effects to historic properties.

"This is a great opportunity for everyone to catch up on tasks and requirements that have been accomplished since the signing of the 2011 Programmatic Agreement," said Al Borja, environmental director, Marine Corps Activity Guam. "Since last year, working together with the

State Historic Preservation Office, we have appropriated funds from the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act for a Guam Cultural Repository, worked together for a robust Historic Preservation Plan, and developed and implemented a Public Access Plan for people of the island to visit important cultural and historic sites. We have also had a number of successful nominations of historic sites for the National Register of Historic Places."

Expected attendees will include representatives from the Department of Defense, Government of Guam and Guam's State Historic Preservation Office.

Members of the media are invited to a workshop briefing and question-and-answer session. Interested parties should contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055. **(PR)**

Tony Roma's Saipan participates in Make-A-Wish fundraiser

Tony Roma's Saipan is participating in raising funds for Make-A-Wish Foundation with the appetizer card promotion. Buy an appetizer card for \$20 and receive four appetizers any time you dine in. Tony Roma's will donate 50 percent of your purchase directly to the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

"Make-A-Wish is an amazing charity doing great work. We are super excited to be participating and helping to raise money for children in need," said Atsushi Aoki, general manager of Tony Roma's. "We've seen how making a wish come true can make all the difference. We want to

raise as much money as possible to support those wishes."

Tens of thousands of volunteers, donors, and supporters advance the Make-A-Wish vision to grant the wish of every child diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition. In the United States and its territories, on average, a wish is granted every 34 minutes. The Make-A-Wish Foundation first began in 1980 and has raised millions of dollars over the past 37 years. The foundation grants wishes to children suffering from life threatening illnesses.

"As a company, we want to give back to the community

and with Make-A-Wish, we give to those that need us the most, children in need," said Jay Jones, vice president of Triple J Enterprise and vice chair Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI.

Visit Tony Roma's on Beach Road to purchase your appetizer card to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Or call for reservations 233-9193. Open 11am-10:30pm Monday-Sunday.

Please visit the Make-A-Wish website to discover more here: www.wish.org.

Triple J Enterprises Inc. has served the island communities for over three decades. The

Triple J group of companies has several major operations, which include the Triple J Auto Group, which represents Hyundai, Mitsubishi, and Mazda; Triple J Rentals, the licensee for Hertz Rent A Car in Guam, Saipan, and Palau; Five Star Wholesale Foods, the distributor of high-quality food items including Certified Angus Beef, Hawaii Water, and Tyson food products; and, Triple J Restaurant Group which owns and operates Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Surf Club, Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, and Truong's Vietnamese Restaurant in Saipan. **(PR)**



ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and Forestry volunteers pose for a photo with Olei Elementary School students last week as the two-day Environmental Expo came to an end at the CNMI Museum.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Too Cool tops Quiz Nite 1 Tinian

The Autism Society of the CNMI held Quiz Nite 1 Tinian for the first time last Saturday, April 22, at the Antonio Hocog Manglona Amphitheater.

Some of the smartest people on Tinian showed up to play Quiz Nite 1 Tinian. In all, there were five teams—Team TPL (Tinian Public Library), Team Senior, Team COLTS, Team COTA, and Team Too Cool.

They all competed for the very first bragging rights for Tinian. The game had five categories including Marianas, Polynesia, S.I.L.C., Laws, and Music.

Top three finishers were Team COTA with third place and the smallest trophy then Team COLTS with a bigger trophy, and finally, when the dust settled, the year-long bragging rights go to Team Too Cool.

The three judges for the event were Vincent King of the Tinian Health Center, Allan Perez of the Tinian Mayor's Office, and Monika Diaz of ASCNMI, VOICES, and the Tinian Mayor's Office. The process observers were Jocelyn King of Tinian Elementary School and Zoey King of Tinian Junior and Senior High School.

All participants had a great time and learned many in-

teresting facts about autism awareness on the island of Tinian. COTA was there to share their information on transportation.

On Sunday, April 23, from 3pm to 5pm, Quiz Nite 1 Tinian participants gathered at the Tachonga Beach and barbecued some hot dogs for the Hot Dog Walk Run Roll and Family Fun Day.

The walk started from Tachonga Beach and ended at the Veteran's Park. A total of 60 folks participated in the walk including COTA's John Demapan and the crew.

Thanks to Monika Diaz and her family for all the hard work they did.

In two weeks time, 6pm to 9pm, May 6, 2017, ASCNMI will host Quiz Nite 1 Rota at the Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior and Senior High School.

Also on Sunday, May 7, from 3pm to 5pm, ASCNMI will host the Hot Dog Walk, Run, Roll, Mini-Marathon and Family Fun Day. It will take place from the Rota Baseball Field in Sinapalo to the end of the pavement and back.

Saipan will hold its own Hot Dog Walk, Run, Roll on Aug. 29 from 3pm to 5pm at the Last Command Post in Marpi to the split in the road and back to the Last Command Post. **(ASCNMI)**

MVA makes Japan media tie-ups for summer travel

The Marianas Visitors Authority is undertaking several media tie-ups in Japan this month to promote summer travel to the Northern Marianas.

The April 23 issue of women's magazine *CanCam*

features the cover story "Everything You Can Do in The Marianas: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," nine pages of coverage on the islands. The story follows two models who are both popular and influ-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The April 23, 2017, issue of *CanCam* women's magazine in Japan features the cover story "Everything You Can Do in The Marianas: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota." *CanCam* model and super idol unit "Nogizaka 46" member Sayuri Matsumura and fashion model and TV star Akane Hotta are featured in the story.

Environment Conference registration now open

The 29th Pacific Islands Environmental Conference, to be held on June 13-15, 2017 on Saipan, CNMI is now open for registration.

The theme of this year's conference is "A Sustainable Pacific: Preparing for Change, Voyaging with Knowledge." The conference agenda will focus on climate change and island resilience, approaches to sustainable development, and the connections between public health and the environment.

Interested persons can register at becq.gov.mp. The registration fee is \$50 for the three days, or \$20 for one day.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Alexis Straus, Acting Administrator for Region 9, will give the Opening Keynote for the three-day conference. EPA's Pacific Southwest Region (Region 9) is home to more than 50 million people and spans the Pacific Islands, 148 tribal nations, and the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada. The U.S. EPA partners with state and local agencies to administer and enforce federal environmental laws that address safe

drinking, public health, toxic waste, and air pollution. Each of these are a challenge to islands that are complicated by climate change, development, and emerging health concerns.

The first PIEC session convened 55 years ago in 1961 to assess how to better preserve and protect the natural resources of Oceania that were being threatened by rapid economic, social and environmental changes. As a result of PIEC meetings, our leaders made sustainable decisions that aimed to conserve and restore the natural resources of our island homes.

During the 29th PIEC, more than 300 delegates from the environmental protection professions including managers, field representatives, government officials, private companies, and non-profit groups are expected to be in attendance. Attendees will come from across the Pacific, American Samoa, Guam, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. There will also be representatives from the U.S. mainland and international locations. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CanCam model and super idol unit "Nogizaka 46" member Sayuri Matsumura and fashion model and TV star Akane Hotta have a photo shoot at Hyatt Regency Saipan. The duo is featured in the April 23, 2017, issue of *CanCam* women's magazine in the cover story "Everything You Can Do in The Marianas: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

ential with Japanese young people: *CanCam* model and super idol unit "Nogizaka 46" member Sayuri Matsumura and fashion model and TV star Akane Hotta. The

magazine circulates 213,000 copies monthly.

Last April 24 online travel curation media Retrip launched the special feature "Probably the No. 1 Trip This

Year! 7 Reasons to Go to The Marianas Now When You Plan a 2-night, 3-day Trip." Two additional features on the Northern Marianas will be launched in May and June,

targeting the site's 26 million monthly unique users.

Also, women's magazine *Oggi* will include a four-page feature titled "How to Enjoy 3 Islands of The Marianas" in their June issue to be released on April 28. The magazine circulates 220,000 copies monthly.

"Many people are making their summer travel plans now, so this is an opportune time to remind them of the wonderful experiences they can have in The Marianas, such as enjoying our beautiful scenery, having luxurious experiences at local resorts, taking time for spiritual reflections at sacred places, and enjoying the simple island life," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "These are just a few of the experiences that Saipan, Tinian, and Rota have to offer."

The MVA is also working on a tie-up with travel curation site Tabi MUSE and Delta Air Lines on a July FAM(iliarization) tour. The site targets women in their 20s and 40s. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Model and super idol unit "Nogizaka 46" member Sayuri Matsumura and fashion model and TV star Akane Hotta shoot in the Northern Marianas for the April 23, 2017, issue of the *CanCam* women's magazine.

Coast Guard suspends active search for missing fisherman off Saipan

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard suspended the active search Monday at 10:38 p.m., for a missing fisherman who was reported overdue from a fishing trip off the eastern coast of Saipan, Thursday.

Lito Aguilar, 50, remains missing.

"Making the decision to suspend a search is never an easy one," said Lt. Cmdr. Joshua Blocker, a command duty officer at the Coast Guard Sector Guam command center. "We extend our deepest thanks to our partners in the Navy, Air Force, Department of Public Safety of Saipan and Tinian and

other local agencies for their efforts in searching for Mr. Aguilar."

Responders conducted a total of 50 separate searches covering 55,734 square miles and a 6,610 mile trackline search over a span of 96 hours.

Involved in the search were:

■ HC-130 Hercules fixed-wing airplane crews from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point.

■ Crewmembers from Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor and the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Washington (WPB 1331), homeported in Apra Harbor, Guam.

■ HH-60 Seahawk heli-

copter crews from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 at Andersen Air Force Base and Navy Coastal Riverine Group MK-VI vessels.

■ Crews from the Department of Public Safety Saipan and Tinian.

■ Personnel from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

■ B1-B Lancer fixed-wing airplane squadron crew also from Andersen Air Force Base.

■ Crew of the Panamanian-flagged motor vessel Cosmo Ace, participating in the AMVER program.

Watchstanders at Sec-

tor Guam received a report from a concerned neighbor at 6:56pm Thursday stating Aguilar usually departs from Sugar Dock, Saipan, at noon each day and reportedly returns around 5pm.

AMVER, or Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue System, is a worldwide voluntary reporting system sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard. It is a computer-based global ship reporting system used by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea using vessels of opportunity in the region. **(USCG)**

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 83

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

Encourage more men and minorities to teach

Who's in front of the class? There are more black, Hispanic and Asian teachers than there were in 1987, a new study shows — but at the front of our nation's classrooms, men are a shrinking minority.

The report, published by the Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics, compared survey data from 1987-88 and 2011-12. Over this period, the teaching force went from 12.4 percent minority to 17.3 percent minority. That's still less than the student body, which was 44 percent minority in 2011-12, but it's progress.

Just by being there, minority teachers show minority boys and girls, especially those from low socioeconomic-status backgrounds, that they too can achieve respected positions in American society — something no young citizen should doubt, but too many do. Such teachers have advantages in mentoring minority children, not only because they may share common experiences, but because even if they don't, the students may find it easier to relate to them.

So it's really too bad that the number of black, non-Hispanic teachers went up only 25 percent — less than whites, Asians and Hispanics.

The other disappointment was gender. Teaching was already a female-dominated profession, and it became more so when it added more than a million women and fewer than 200,000 men, net. Now, just 24 percent of teachers nationally are men.

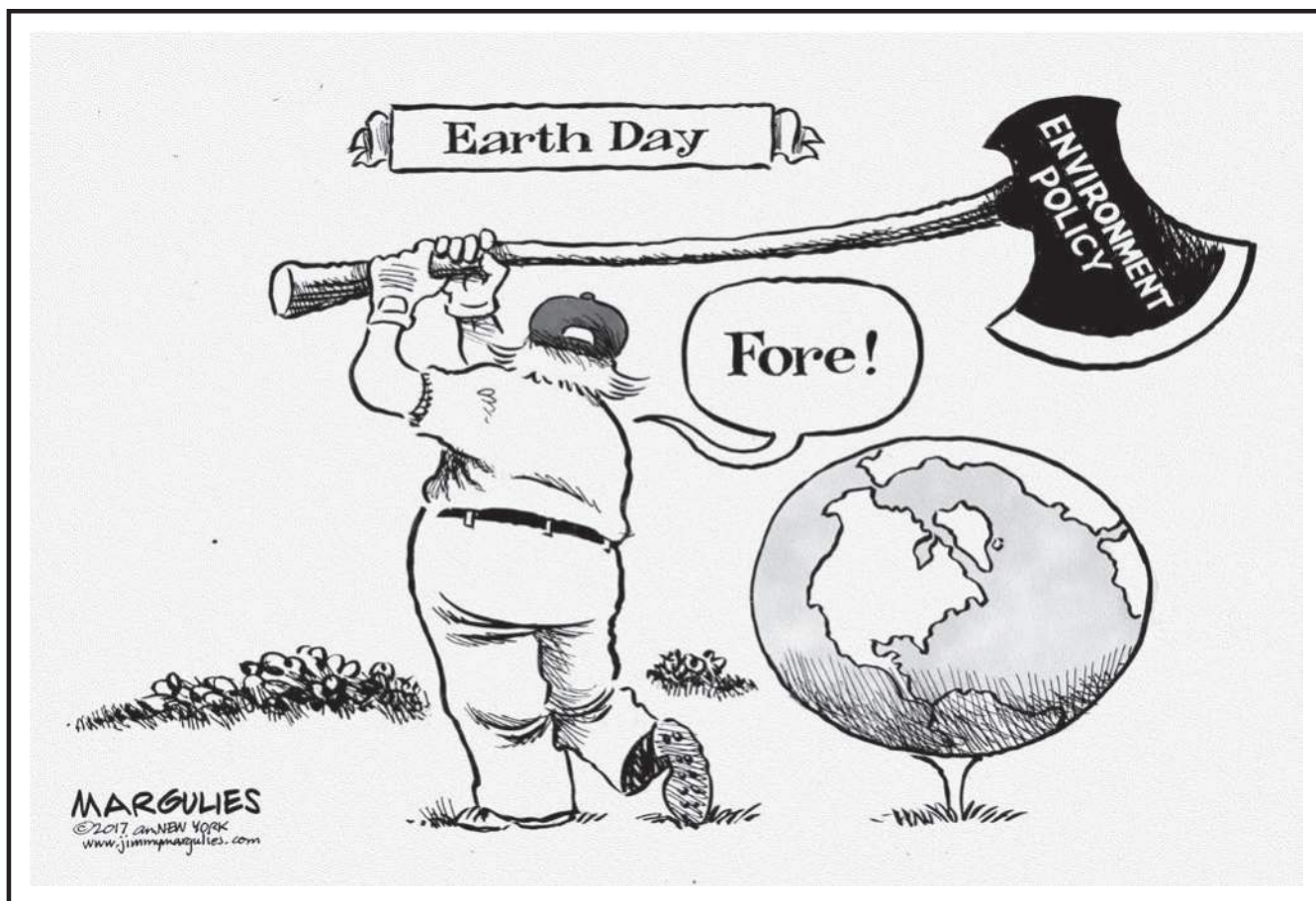
According to the Census Bureau, 20 million Americans younger than 18 don't live with their fathers. Some of these children may lack positive adult male role models if they don't find one at school. But boys need to learn how to be men. To the extent men offer a kind of leadership less commonly found in women, that's something generations have valued, and it should be passed on. To the extent men who go into teaching are nurturing, they show boys that they can be too.

So there's a real need to get more men into teaching. That may take a variety of efforts, much like those we see aimed at getting women into male-dominated fields. At the very least, the notion that only women should work with small children must be destroyed.

It's time to pursue strategies to recruit and retain more men and minorities to study education and join the classroom.

The teaching profession may never be a perfect demographic mirror of the nation's students, but it should be closer than it is.

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(M)alice through the looking glass: The liberal black community vs President Donald Trump

By **TIBERIU DIANU**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

1 . Introductory remarks
Many people, because of convenience, lack of time and the like, limit themselves to read, listen, and watch — in a word, to check for — the media that reflects their own points of view and philosophy of life.

I, for one, have been in the habit of checking for the (adverse) liberal media even before the 2016 presidential elections. However, after the elections, I have to confess, my browsing through the mainstream and local media (most of them, essentially, liberal) has been bringing me cherished and enchanting moments of entertainment.

Not only because the media keeps on referring ecstatically to Obama in their articles. But also for the distorted projection of reality, which the same articles purport to describe, creating a Lewis Carroll's looking-glass type of effect. And all these articles "strike down upon" Donald Trump "with great vengeance and furious anger" in the Samuel L. Jackson's Pulp Fiction style.

Come to think of it, Obama was so bad throughout his presidency that he managed to turn the Democrats into total losers on all fronts. By losing in a row the House in 2010, the Senate in 2014, and the presidency for his successor in 2016, he got the perfect "triple whammy" for a politician. So much for his "legacy." And still, the media considers him a genius. Isn't this entertaining?

The Left, who was "left" out of power (and "left" only with the media) has been in constant denial and tries to impute to the guy who actually WON (Donald Trump) all the possible evils. You can have a better chance detecting spots in the sun than finding positive things about Trump in the liberal scribblers' op-eds.

I am a long-time resident of Washington, DC, a city run in perpetuity by Democrats, so what I browse (as if I had another choice) is the leftist local media. Which, except The Washington Times and Washington Examiner, is either liberal or radical left (in translation: "moderate" or "progressive"). In a city dominated by the African-American minority I guess that I, as one of the 36 percent non-Hispanic Whites and 4 percent conservatives, can claim I am a "minority," too. But I digress.

Taking into account that on Nov. 8, 2016, Donald Trump was elected for president by 57 percent of white non-Hispanics, 28 percent of Hispanics, and only 8 percent of blacks, I think it is fair to say that the president is not exactly the African-American community's poster boy.

Having this non-optimistic perspective in mind, I took some time to figure out what exactly has dented the black commu-

nity's enthusiasm for President Trump.

Therefore, I would like to address a series of op-eds published in The Washington Informer, the April 5 (online)/April 6 (paper), 2017 edition. The Informer is a female-owned weekly newspaper, targeted at the African-American population of the Washington metropolitan area. The journal has a circulation of 50 to 60 thousand copies, which, for a city of over 800 thousand residents and a predominantly black population, shows that there is still room for improvement.

The newspaper publishes a number of six opinion pieces per issue and, with the readers' indulgence, I would go briefly through them in order to make my point. The debated issues are: judiciary, health, labor, press, housing, and racial divide. Let's take them in order.

2. Judiciary

Cedric Richmond, the Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), opposes Gorsuch nomination and requires the U.S. Senate to do that, too. <http://washingtoninformer.com/richmond-cbc-opposes-gorsuch-nomination-and-senate-should-too/>

He claims that appointing Judge Neil Gorsuch in a position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court would have serious consequences for all Americans, and especially African-Americans, since the judge has displayed hostility to the rights of minorities, women, people with disabilities, and workers.

Richmond recites the liberal mantra that the judicial branch has the power to interpret the laws of the land and the "Constitution is a living and breathing document that is meant to evolve with our society and it should be interpreted as such." In translation: since the Democrats have been completely stripped out of power in the U.S. Congress, they don't have the votes to pass anything.

So, the only way to dodge the constitutional prerequisites is to give a judge or panel of judges in a local court, or five justices in the Supreme Court, the power to "interpret" a "living and breathing document" outside the original meaning of its creators. In other words, the "living and breathing document that is meant to evolve with our society" can be, in actuality, a new law, masqueraded as an "interpreted law." Employing this successful technique, liberal judges have created new laws of the land by "interpreting" provisions inexistent in the Constitution and creating "rights" out of the blue, such as: the right to abortion, the right to universal health care, and the right to marry a member of the same sex.

Fortunately, on Monday, April 10, 2017, the Senate employed the nuclear option (since the Democrats were threatening with the filibuster), and confirmed Gorsuch as Supreme Court Justice

See (M)ALICE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

(M)ALICE

From Page 10

with a simply majority of votes of 54 to 45.

In the near future, Gorsuch's vote might prove important in cases related to President Trump's travel ban (the president's second travel ban executive order), religious freedom impacted by providing services to same-sex couples (Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission), and the right to carry concealed weapons in public (Peruta v. San Diego). <http://abc-news.go.com/Politics/gorsuchs-confirmation-impact-supreme-court/story?id=46832872>

3. Health

Jesse Jackson, the famous political figure and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, advises Trump to form a bipartisan coalition in order to get "true reforms." <http://washingtoninformer.com/jesse-jackson-trump-should-form-bipartisan-coalition-to-get-true-reforms/>

More precisely, he refers to the American Health Care Act, deemed to replace Obamacare (The Universal Health Care Act), which was torpedoed by a right-wing Freedom Caucus faction of the Republicans in Congress for being too soft a version.

Yes, Reverend Jackson, by all means, a "bipartisanship coalition," pretty much like the one his predecessor created, right? Wait a minute, was there any? It is notorious that Obama "cared" a lot about "bipartisanship" when he forced an unpopular health care law on the back of the Americans with just a slim majority in Congress. And when he lost that majority (because of the same infamous law), he has become famous for ruling by executive orders until the end of his second mandate.

Let's remind to everybody here the fact that on September 28, 2016, President Obama's veto against a bill that allowed legal action against Saudi Arabia over the 9/11 attacks was overridden by Congress for the first time in his administration (with the votes of his fellow Democrats).

Now, Reverend Jackson urges President Trump "to fulfill his campaign pledge by reaching out to Democrats and forging a new majority to make health care a right in this country." By the way, health care is not a "right," it's a "service" and Jackson just acknowledged that in his last phrase.

4. Labor

Julianne Malveaux, the well-known progressive political commentator, decries the fact that Alexander Acosta, the president's nominee for secretary of labor, got a narrow approval from the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions by a 12 to 11 party line vote. <http://washingtoninformer.com/malveaux-alexander-acosta-bad-news-in-a-slick-package/>

In her view, Acosta was "slippery" when he was asked if he would "stand up for workers" because the Labor Department should take care of "the little person" and not "take care of corporations." Mrs. Malveaux is terribly upset that the president has proposed a 21 percent cut in the department's budget, potentially eliminating some programs dear to Democrats, such as the Senior Community Service Employment Program, Job Corps Centers, the Office of Disability Employment Policy, the Women's Bureau, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration unproven training grants.

On the other hand, she laments that President Obama proposed that the overtime ceiling (according to which workers qualify for time and a half under a certain salary limit) be doubled, from the current \$23,660 to \$47,320, while Acosta indicated that he would prefer "something in the \$33,000 range." Question for Mrs. Malveaux: who stopped President Obama to raise the overtime ceiling? Now it's a bit late for lamenting and criticizing. Because—don't we all know?—"elections have consequences."

Although Acosta is the first Hispanic on the Trump cabinet, a Harvard undergraduate and has law degrees, he is already described as "a disappointment for workers." The fact that he is an "anti-regulation" guy (in translation: less bureaucracy), pretty much like his boss, President Trump, seems to give chills to Mrs. Malveaux.

5. Press

Austin Cooper, president of Cooper Strategic Affairs, Inc., a lobby group, is preoccupied that the White House Press Secretary for President Trump, Sean Spicer's briefings have become "nationally televised verbal saunas of stress." <http://washingtoninformer.com/cooper-the-sean-spicer-treadmill/>

Why is that? Because the presidency "is constantly at war with

the media." I just love the fact how Democrats, famous in offering you a flawed premise to debate, start later on to corner you and force you to accept that you are wrong and they are right.

Take any example. Here's one: we should accept the "undocumented" (in translation: illegal) immigrants because they are "also" immigrants (like the legal ones) and America is "a country of immigrants." Here's another one: transgender people have "the right" (not in the Constitution yet, but a liberal judge will make sure to "interpret" this accordingly) to select a restroom of their choice (despite the fact that the person has not changed his sex in court, according to the law). Here's a more recent one: I don't have to pay taxes since President Trump does not reveal his taxes (is this an obligation?).

The employed technique is that causes and effects are reversed. In reality, it's not the president who is at war with media, it's the media who is at war with the president. And this the case since Day Number One, when Trump announced his candidacy, until now. Has been there any break in this war, Mr. Cooper? Not that I know of.

However, for Mr. Cooper, this has been already a stressful situation. He, as a journalist, is stressed that the media starts the war against the President, and the President hits back. Unbelievable! Maybe we should impeach him.

Another reason for "stress" is the access for media to the president. Why? Because the administration "always feels that the press is looking for a scandal, focusing on the wrong thing and only wants to trip up the president." Oh, my goodness! So many reasons for real concern, and all of them true, right?

And from here, another false premise for another comparison dear to Democrats: Trump is like Nixon who, also, "was a monomaniac on the stump, obsessed with enemies lurking within." The subliminal message of all these Trump-Nixon comparisons, used here and elsewhere by the liberal journalists is that sometime Trump might be impeached. Which is Maxine Waters' mantra and "best hit." Only that she doesn't have the votes to put it in the Top Ten Chart.

6. Housing

Charlene Crowell panicks that "the future of our country's commitment to housing is in jeopardy" since the budget of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) becomes smaller, and that many HUD programs with "bipartisan support" will end. <http://washingtoninformer.com/its-time-for-congress-to-restore-6b-in-hud-funding/>

Case in point: the HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program would absorb \$3 billion of HUD's proposed \$6.2 billion agency cut, which is almost half, according to the White House Budget Blueprint. Other programs listed on a proposed \$1.1 billion in cuts include Choice Neighborhoods and the HOME Investment Partnerships.

Choice Neighborhoods program provides funding and technical assistance for "distressed public," while the HOME Investment Partnerships program focuses on creating affordable housing opportunities for low-income families. The Federal Housing Administration (FHA), which is part of HUD, insures mortgage loans, with down payment as low as 3.5 percent for families who cannot afford a large down payment for a conventional loan.

The author admits that, "in recent years, FHA-backed loans are the most used by black and Latino consumers." She also forgets what happens when the real estate bubble breaks: financial crises like the one in 2007-08. That was a result of a real estate bubble that had begun during the 2000s (more precisely, during President Bill Clinton's second mandate).

And she also forgets about the \$13 trillion debt held by the public, created by Obama, a debt that keeps growing. Like a preacher in the desert, Mrs. Crowell psalms about more programs that "deserve to be supported and funded" and asks for Congress to restore the \$6 billion in HUD funding. In translation: zero cuts.

The author doesn't seem to care too much about gentrification, which, in areas like Washington, DC, surges as a visible and intense phenomenon. Nor about the positive effects that gentrification brings to the poor areas and their residents, described at a short interval of time by The Afro-American, another African-American journal from the DC Metropolitan Area. <https://www.afro.com/d-c-s-gentrification-can-offer-opportunities>

7. Racial divide

Askia Muhammad, a senior editor for The Final Call newspaper and a Washington Informer contributor, approaches the issue of racial division in the country, which has been old and still visible. <http://washingtoninformer.com/muhammad-new-mississippi->

new-usa/

Mr. Muhammad attempts to make some points, according to which, while he was visiting his hometown in Mississippi, in the Delta in particular, and in the South in general, although some curiosities happened (like white children being reared in black neighborhoods "down south" or some black families moving in white areas, "on the north side" of the towns, "where neighborhoods have paved sidewalks and manicured lawns"), not much has changed really.

The author seems to reminisce about the times when on one side of the highway were fast-food establishments with black staff and black managers, while on the other side were businesses (like banks, pawnshops, hardware, auto, and loan stores) managed by whites with black workers. Those times have remained unchanged.

Also, he reminisces about the last year's NCAA tournament day, when the Mississippi State University's black female basketball player, Morgan William, brought victory for her team against University of Connecticut. Which makes me reminisce, too, about why White Men Can't Jump.

The author is candid enough to admit the fact that in the area the segregationists were the Dixiecrats. And that was before President Nixon's ("here you go again!") "Southern Strategy" punished the Democrats in the South for President Lyndon Johnson's support for civil right legislation. The Ku Klux Klan is mentioned, too, but the author does not remind us that the organization was formed by Southern Democrats after the Civil War.

In retrospect, I remember how obfuscated was once Anthony Kapel "Van" Jones, Obama's former "progressive" (in translation: Marxist) Special Advisor for Green Jobs. In a CNN show during the presidential elections, Jones was totally displeased that members of the white nationalist groups would support Trump (as if they were less American than Van).

When conservative commentator Jeffrey Lord confronted him with the historical fact that the Ku Klux Klan was formed in the post-Civil War years by Southern Democrats, Van blew up: "I don't care about history!" Of course you don't, Van, unless history serves your racial narrative.

In the end, Mr. Muhammad complains that the "Trump Revolution" would "reestablish that 'natural order' of things where white folks are in charge — right or wrong, win or lose" but he admits that nothing much has changed in the "deep, deep" South.

It is unclear from the article what the author's expectations about the Southern communities are. With a plethora of Democrat presidents - Truman, Kennedy, Johnson, Carter, Clinton and Obama — one would hope for racial problems to be fixed in the direction desired by the author. Is it Trump's fault that he "solidifies" what has been almost unchanged for decades? And if some people had frustrations over this, they should re-direct them toward the aforementioned presidents.

8. Concluding remarks

Apparently many in the liberal black community have been trapped in Lewis Carroll's rabbit hole and see everything distorted, like in Alice's looking-glass. The only difference is that Alice was acting candidly, while the black leaders are in denial and act with malice.

Such op-ed pieces embark the reader on a journey in Lewis Carroll's symbolic world, populated with mirror-like opposite themes. In this surreal world good is bad, big is small, fast is slow, forward is backward and, not in the least, the visible becomes invisible.

The liberal black leaders do know they will be stuck with Trump for a four-year round, and possibly for a second one. Lewis Carroll's two books reflect two worlds — Wonderland and The Looking-Glass — mirroring each other. And "the trader" of the story, The Mad Hatter, is a returning character, appearing in both books.

https://cdn3.f-cdn.com/contententries/711706/4393966/57b768688eaf3_thumb900.jpg






From now on, it all depends on how crafty the black leaders will be when they respond to Mad Hatter's "Tea Party" invitations. For his first invitation, at his Inauguration Day, part of them chose not to attend. That was not a smart move.

https://2.bp.blogspot.com/-w7aSY-NFFPo/WIokbmi0Sul/AAAAAABwYo/XquwtHRO_js1JbHZbeSxJLnBirbt9IKQ-CLcB/s640/trump%2Bmad%2Bhater%2B.jpg

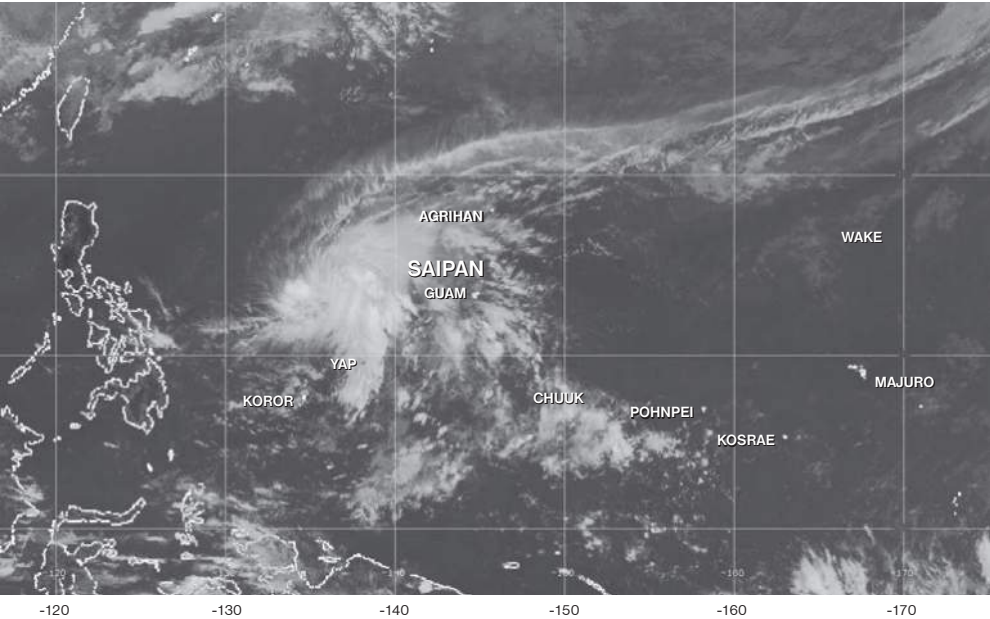
In the near future, The Mad Hatter may invite them again: either in Wonderland, in order to enjoy a fine cup of "Tea" and biscuit, and play a nice game of cards, or in The Looking-Glass, where he can engage them to a much longer, complicated, and stressful, game of chess.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
 Mixed clouds and sun with scattered thunderstorms.	 Scattered thunderstorms in the evening, mainly cloudy late with a few showers.	 Scattered thunderstorms during the evening, then partly cloudy overnight.	 Partly cloudy skies.	 Partly cloudy skies.
▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 79°	▲ 86° ▼ 79°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:00 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Main source of forecast uncertainty is the future evolution of this area of convergence affecting the Marianas at this time. If it pushes west, we will be out of it soon. If it pushes northwest, we could still be in it for a while as it extends a ways to the southeast. In general the weather will be improving, the forecast problem is exactly how fast this improvement will occur. Combined seas of 4 to 6 feet will bob downward to between 3 and 5 feet tonight, then back upward Thursday. Seas will then diminish again Saturday, then rise again after a couple of days. Swells from Tropical Storm 03W are not expected to be significant at this point.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86 80 °F
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86 77 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	89 72 °F
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	86 80 °F
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	86 79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85 80 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	69 60 °F
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	82 54 °F
Hong Kong	Light Rain	76 67 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84 71 °F
London	Partly Cloudy	55 41 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	82 63 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	96 81 °F
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	57 51 °F
Miami	Sunny	85 77 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	69 56 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	67 49 °F
Paris	Partly Cloudy	54 35 °F
Pusan	Sunny	69 43 °F
Rome	Rain	65 53 °F
Salem	Cloudy	57 39 °F
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65 51 °F
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	79 57 °F
Tokyo	Cloudy	61 51 °F
Washington, DC	Sunny	85 66 °F



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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:07 AM	LOW TIDE		0.57
7:43 AM	HIGH TIDE		2.08
2:32 PM	LOW TIDE		-0.26
8:59 PM	HIGH TIDE		2.06

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:28 PM	7:22 PM	-
Friday	7:22 AM	8:26 PM	-
Saturday	8:18 AM	9:29 PM	-
Sunday	9:17 AM	10:30 PM	-
Monday	10:17 AM	11:29 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily	LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5	7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)				JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7	7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM	UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM	UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
				UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat



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Vice President Pence visits American Samoa

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—Last Monday, at the request of Congresswoman Amata Coleman Radewagen, Vice President Michael Richard “Mike” Pence and the Second Lady stopped in American Samoa Sunday on their way back to Washington, D.C. from the V.P.’s tour of Asia, where he met with strategic partners in the region to bolster economic and military cooperation.

“After the Vice President asked me to be a part of the transition team, which I was honored to serve on, I felt it was an opportune time invite him to visit our beautiful home here in the South Pacific,” said Radewagen. “I wanted him to see first-hand, the love our people have for this great nation, as well as help us dedicate the newly named Eni F.H. Faleomavaega Veterans clinic,” continued Radewagen. The local VA clinic was renamed after legislation introduced by the Congresswoman was signed into law last month by President Trump.

Upon his arrival, Vice President Pence was welcomed by Gov. Lolo Moliga and the First Lady, Lt. Gov. Lemanu Palepoi Sialeaga Mauga, the Speaker of the House Savali, Chief Justice Kruse, the Secretary of Samoan Affairs Mauga, Congresswoman Amata and other local dignitaries at Pago Pago International Airport.



The governor then led a traditional welcoming ceremony for the Vice President and his

family. The Vice President also helped dedicate the renaming of the local VA clinic

to the Eni F.H. Faleomavaega Veterans clinic, during which time he addressed the soldiers

from the 100th Infantry Battalion stationed in American Samoa. Vice President Pence spoke on the challenges the United States faces in the Pacific; and thanked them for their dedicated service. Vice President Pence is now only the 6th White House dignitary to visit the territory.

“The Vice President’s trip was a massive success,” stated

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Congresswoman Amata Coleman Radewagen, Vice President Michael Richard “Mike” Pence, and Second Lady Karen Pence wave to the crowd gathered at Pago Pago International Airport before departing for Honolulu on Air Force II.

Radewagen. “I want to thank Governor Lolo and the Lt. Governor for their hard work in helping us welcome the Vice President and Second Lady to our beautiful home without a hitch...it truly was a historic day for American Samoa,” said the Congresswoman. “I was honored that he accepted my invitation to visit the territory on his way back to Washington, D.C., after his trip to South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, and Australia. His visit has brought great exposure of American Samoa, and our conversations on Air Force II were very productive and hope inspiring. The Vice President and President Trump are demonstrating with their actions that they truly care about the people in the Pacific territories, and I look forward to continuing to work with them to see that our people are given the same opportunities and resources as those in the states,” continued the Congresswoman. “Vice President Pence’s dedication of the Eni F.H. Faleomavaega clinic brought tears to my eyes. He and Eni were colleagues together in the House of Representatives, which made it that much more significant the Vice President could lead the dedication, and we are all truly honored and grateful,” concluded Radewagen. (PR)

7th Annual SAFE Jamboree on April 29

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Family Violence Task Force are inviting community members to the 7th Annual S.A.F.E. Jamboree on Saturday, April 29, from 11am to 5pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium

in Oleai.

The S.A.F.E. Jamboree is an afternoon of family fun with live entertainment, food vendor, games, and other types of activity centers. The event will also feature exhibits by community agencies and programs.

The S.A.F.E. Jamboree is part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) activities and events. The acronym S.A.F.E. stands for Safe, Aware, Free and Empower.

Also, the first 200 participants to register at the S.A.F.E. Jamboree will receive a free SAAM 2017 T-shirt. Free raffle prizes will also be given

out throughout the event.

For more information, contact the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolence-nmi.org. For more news and updates, follow NMCADSV on Facebook, Twitter (@EndViolenceNMI) and Instagram (@nmcadsv). (PR)

Sophia-Fiesta 5km Fun Walk on May 14

Registration is now open for the annual Sophia-Fiesta 5km Fun Walk on May 14, 2017.

Registration time is 6am, while the walk begins at 6:30am.

The Sophia-Fiesta Walk, named after former first lady, Sophia Tenorio, will take place on Mother’s Day to honor all mothers in the

CNMI. Proceeds from this family-friendly fun walk will go toward the Marianas Walking Association, which helps bring in exchange students from Japan.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, the main organizer, has been the prominent sponsor for the past several years. Marianas Health will also provide free

blood sugar, blood pressure, and respiratory flow check at the event. The 5km route starts at Paseo de Marianas, near Kinpachi Restaurant with the Fiesta Aid Station at the turnaround across the street from the Gold Beach Hotel.

Registration is free, however, the commemorative T-shirts will be sold for \$7 each

for the first 150 interested participants.

Registration forms are available at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, and the PDI Office in Grandvrio Resort.

For more information, contact Hiroko Tajima at 287-8780, Hiroko Tenorio at 483-0614, or email Wellington Ang at wellington_ang@fiestasaipan.com. (PR)

Bordallo discusses underwater detonation training Chatfield

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo yesterday spoke with Rear Admiral Shoshana Chatfield, Commander, Joint Region Marianas, to discuss the Navy’s planned Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 underwater detonation training. Bordallo appreciated the outreach by RDML Chatfield and urged the Navy

to do further outreach to educate the community on the planned exercise and in advance of future significant exercises.

“Today I spoke with RDML Chatfield to discuss the Navy’s planned underwater detonation training in Outer Apra Harbor. I relayed to her our community’s concerns and urged her to further com-

municate with our community about the potential impacts of this exercise. To that end, I appreciate that RDML Chatfield has rescheduled the training to take place on May 18 so that our community’s concerns can be addressed. RDML Chatfield has also reassured me that there will be minimal impact, if any, to our environment, that the Navy

will take appropriate safety precautions to protect personnel and marine life, and that in the future, the Navy will communicate more effectively with the public regarding these training exercises. I thanked her for these reassurances and encouraged her to maintain a strong partnership with our civilian community.” (PR)

Junior High Mock Trial on April 29

Junior high and middle school students will be arguing a fictitious case of cyberstalking in Commonwealth v. Kelsey Reed at the annual CNMI Junior High Mock Trial this Saturday.

The CNMI Junior High Mock Trial is a signature program of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council where students learn about the law and standard courtroom procedures in a non-competitive format.

Though the program is non-competitive, special recognition will be given to students who give outstanding performances in their roles as attorneys or witnesses.

Over 70 students from nine different schools have registered. Participating schools include Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School, Chacha Ocean View Middle School, Dandan Middle School, Eskuelan San Francisco De Borja, Francisco M.

Sablan Middle School, Grace Christian Academy, Mount Carmel School, Saipan Community School, and Tinian Junior Senior High School.

Schools have been paired up over two rounds, which will be presided by a judge. This year’s judges are Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, Associate Justice John Manglona, Associate Justice Perry Inos, Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, and Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

The program is this Saturday, April 29, at 9am at the House of Justice in Susupe. It is free and open to the public.

The CNMI Junior High Mock Trial is made possible through funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and in partnership with the CNMI Public School System and the CNMI Judiciary.

For more information, please call Council staff at 235-4785. (PR)

Business

Trump to propose massive tax cuts for businesses

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump plans to propose massive tax cuts for businesses big and small as part of an overhaul that he says will provide the biggest tax cuts in U.S. history.

In addition to big tax cuts for corporations, Trump also wants to cut taxes for small business owners from a top tax rate of 39.6 percent to a top rate of 15 percent, said an official with knowledge of the plan.

The top tax rate for individuals would be cut from 39.6 percent to the “mid-30s,” the official said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, was not authorized to discuss the plan publicly ahead of Trump’s announcement, scheduled for Wednesday.

White House officials had already revealed that Trump’s plan would reduce the top corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 15 percent. The plan will also include child-care benefits, a cause promoted by Trump’s daughter Ivanka.

Republicans who slammed the growing national debt under Democrat Barack Obama said Tuesday they are open to Trump’s tax plan, even though it could add trillions of dollars to the deficit over the next decade.

Echoing the White House, Republicans on Capitol Hill argued that tax cuts would spur economic growth, reducing or even eliminating any

drop in tax revenue.

“I’m not convinced that cutting taxes is necessarily going to blow a hole in the deficit,” said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Finance Committee.

“I actually believe it could stimulate the economy and get the economy moving,” Hatch added. “Now, whether 15 percent is the right figure or not, that’s a matter to be determined.”

The argument that tax cuts pay for themselves has been debunked by economists from across the political spectrum. On Tuesday, the official scorekeeper for Congress dealt the argument - and Trump’s plan—another blow.

The nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation said Tuesday that a big cut in corporate taxes - even if it is temporary—would add to long-term budget deficits. This is a problem for Republicans because it means they would need Democratic support in the Senate to pass a tax overhaul that significantly cuts corporate taxes.

The assessment was requested by House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., who has been pushing a new tax on imports to fund lower overall tax rates. Senate Republicans have panned the idea, and officials in the Trump administration have sent mixed signals about it.

The import tax is not expected to be part of Trump’s plan.

Trump dispatched his top lieutenants to Capitol Hill

Tuesday to discuss his plan with Republican leaders. They met for about half an hour. No Democrat was invited.

Afterward, Hatch called it, “a preliminary meeting.”

“They went into some suggestions that are mere suggestions, and we’ll go from there.”

Republicans have been working under a budget maneuver that would allow them to pass a tax bill without Democratic support in the Senate - but only if it didn’t add to long-term deficits.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said the Senate was sticking to that strategy.

“Regretfully we don’t expect to have any Democratic involvement in” a tax overhaul, McConnell said. “So we’ll have to reach an agreement among ourselves.”

Democrats said they smell hypocrisy over the growing national debt, which stands at nearly \$20 trillion. For decades, Republican lawmakers railed against saddling future generations with trillions in debt.

But with Republicans controlling Congress and the White House, there is no appetite at either end of Pennsylvania Avenue to tackle the long-term drivers of debt—Social Security and Medicare. Instead, Republicans are pushing for tax cuts and increased defense spending.

was flat.

On a global basis, the Atlanta-based company said total sales volume was flat. That reflected a 1 percent decline in sodas, and a 3 percent increase for the category including water, enhanced water and sports drinks. Volume rose 2 percent in the category including tea and coffee.

In North America, volume rose for Fanta, Sprite and Coke Zero, while Diet Coke continued to decline.

For the first three months of the year, the company earned \$1.18 billion, or 27 cents per share. Excluding one-time gains and costs, it said it earned 43 cents per share, a penny less than analysts expected, according to Zacks Investment Research.

Total revenue was \$9.12 billion in the period, topping analyst forecasts for \$8.96 billion.

Shares rose slightly in early trading Tuesday.

Cost cuts at Coca-Cola go deeper, including jobs

ATLANTA (AP)—Coca-Cola’s sales declined in the first quarter as it restructured its business, and the world’s biggest beverage maker said it will cut 1,200 jobs starting later this year as it deepens its cost-cutting.

The maker of Fanta, Sprite and Smartwater said the job cuts will come from its corporate staff around the world. That would represent about a 22 percent reduction of its corporate staff of about 5,500, or a 1 percent reduction in its total workforce of 100,300 employees, according to FactSet.

Coca-Cola Co. said the cuts would help it find another \$800 million in annualized savings, in addition to the \$3 billion the company previously said it is trimming. Most those savings are expected to be realized in 2018 and 2019, it said.

The cuts are part of a comprehensive review and won’t be concentrated in any one

place, the company said.

The company has also been reshaping its business by selling back its bottling and distribution operations to independent bottlers. That means Coke is becoming more focused on selling concentrates to bottlers and marketing for its brands as its No. 2 executive, James Quincey, prepares to officially take over as CEO next week.

Quincey has said he plans to focus on making Coke a “total beverage company,” meaning it will more aggressively seek growth in promising drinks other than soda to better reflect changing tastes. The efforts have included putting more marketing behind options like Smartwater, including a carbonated variety of the bottled water.

When excluding the impact of refranchising, a negative impact from foreign currency exchanges and other structural changes, Coke said its revenue

Nation

GOP drops US-Mexico wall demands

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional negotiators on Tuesday inched toward a potential agreement on a catchall spending bill that would deny President Donald Trump’s request for immediate funding to construct a wall along the Mexico border. The emerging measure would increase the defense budget and eliminate the threat of a government shutdown on Trump’s 100th day in office this Saturday.

Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer said Republican negotiators were following the lead of Trump, who signaled Monday evening that he would not insist on \$1 billion worth of wall funding now as an addition to the \$1 trillion-plus spending bill. Trump told a gathering of conservative media reporters that he might be willing to wait until September for the funding.

Other stumbling blocks remain, but the decision by Trump and his GOP allies to back down on the wall steered the talks on the spending measure in a positive direction.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said he was optimistic the talks would produce “an agreement in the next few days.”

An existing temporary



AP
Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., accompanied by, from left, Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., and Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn of Texas, speaks during a media availability following a policy luncheon, Tuesday, April 25, 2017, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

funding bill expires Friday at midnight and all sides anticipated that another stopgap measure would be required to buy time for the House and Senate to process the massive spending bill, which would wrap together 11 unfinished agency spending bills through September.

Trump campaigned throughout the country last year promising a wall across the entire 2,200 mile southern border, promising that Mexico would pay for it. But while the idea is a priority of Trump’s most fervent supporters, it is resolutely opposed by Democrats and even many Republicans, who see it as wasteful and who prefer other steps like

new technologies and additional border agents to curb illegal immigration.

“I support additional border security funding,” said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a GOP critic of Trump who dined with the president Monday at the White House. “But a 2,200-mile wall, I don’t think there’s a whole lot of support for it.”

Trump vowed to fight for the wall.

“The wall is going to get built,” he said at the White House Tuesday. Asked when, he said, “Soon.”

Democrats vowed not to give up, either, and look forward to the fight.

“It’s not a negotiation,” Schumer said. “No wall.”

Judge blocks Trump threat to withhold ‘sanctuary city’ funds

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal judge on Tuesday blocked President Donald Trump’s attempt to withhold funding from “sanctuary cities” that do not cooperate with U.S. immigration officials, saying the president has no authority to attach new conditions to federal spending.

U.S. District Judge William Orrick issued the preliminary injunction in two lawsuits—one brought by the city of San Francisco, the other by Santa Clara County—against an executive order targeting communities that protect immigrants from deportation.

The injunction will stay in place while the lawsuits work their way through court.

The judge rejected the administration’s argument that the executive order applies only to a relatively small pot of money and said Trump cannot set new conditions on spending approved by Congress.

Even if the president could do so, those condi-

tions would have to be clearly related to the funds at issue and not coercive, as the executive order appeared to be, Orrick said.

“Federal funding that bears no meaningful relationship to immigration enforcement cannot be threatened merely because a jurisdiction chooses an immigration enforcement strategy of which the president disapproves,” the judge said.

It was the third major setback for the administration on immigration policy.

White House chief of staff Reince Priebus described the ruling as another example of the “9th Circuit going bananas.”

The administration has often criticized the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Orrick does not sit on that court but his district is in the territory of the appeals court, which has ruled against one version of Trump’s travel ban.

“The idea that an agency can’t put in some reasonable restriction on how some

of these moneys are spent is something that will be overturned eventually, and we will win at the Supreme Court level at some point,” Priebus said.

San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera praised the ruling and said the president was “forced to back down.”

“This is why we have courts—to halt the overreach of a president and an attorney general who either don’t understand the Constitution or chose to ignore it,” Herrera said in a statement.

Santa Clara County Counsel James Williams said the ruling will allow cities and counties across the country to prepare budgets without the “unconstitutional threat of federal defunding hanging over our heads.”

A Justice Department attorney, Chad Readler, previously defended the president’s executive order as an attempt to use his “bully pulpit” to “encourage communities and states to comply with the law.”

Asia

Watchdog says ASEAN must stand against killings in PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An international human rights watchdog is calling on Southeast Asian leaders to take a stand against the Philippines' war on drugs that has left thousands dead under President Rodrigo Duterte, the host of this week's regional summit.

Amnesty International said leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations must consider whether the killings amount to a serious breach of ASEAN's charter, particularly its pledge to human rights.

It said up to 9,000 people have been killed by police or unknown armed persons since July 2016. Officials said not all deaths being reported are drug-related while others were killed in legitimate police operations.

"As the death toll mounts, so does evidence of the Philippines authorities' role in the bloodshed," said Champa Patel, Amnesty's director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Patel said the Philippines' chairing the ASEAN summit "is a scandal, and should prompt the government to make independent and ef-



AP
Activists from Amnesty International gather in front of the Philippines embassy Tuesday, April 25, 2017, in Bangkok, Thailand, to protest President Duterte's war on drugs policy.

fective investigations into unlawful killings an immediate priority."

In an open letter to Philippine Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II, Amnesty International also called on authorities to conduct a prompt and impartial investigation into all drug related killings, and to press criminal charges against suspects, regardless of rank or status.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said "the so-called extrajudicial killings are not state-sanction or state-sponsored." He said that police conducting legitimate

operations are required to follow protocols and those who breach them are made to answer before the law.

Abella said that the Philippine Senate had conducted an independent investigation into the charges hurled against Duterte by a self-confessed assassin, and senators found no proof of state-sponsored killings.

On Monday, a Filipino lawyer presented documents to the International Criminal Court which he said contain evidence of Duterte's alleged involvement in extrajudicial killings.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Cremation of Thailand's late king to be held on Oct. 26

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's late King Bhumibol Adulyadej will be cremated this October as part of a five-day funeral ceremony, a government spokesman said Tuesday. Sansern Kaewkummerd told reporters that Buddhist funeral rites will be held from Oct. 25-29. The cremation will take place on Oct. 26, which will be a public holiday. A huge crematorium is being erected at Sanam Luang, a large field close to the Grand Palace in Bangkok. Thailand's military government has allocated 1 billion baht (\$28.6 million) for the funeral of Bhumibol, who died on Oct. 13 last year at age 88 after seven decades on the throne. King Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun, Bhumibol's only son, will preside over the cremation. More than 6 million people have paid their respects to the late king's remains at the Grand Palace, according to the Royal Household Bureau.

Australian prime minister looking forward to meeting Trump

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's prime minister said on Wednesday he is looking forward to meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump next week when they attend Battle of the Coral Sea commemorations in New York more than three months after their heated telephone conversation over an Obama-era refugee deal. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced the May 4 visit in a statement after meeting in Afghanistan with Defense Secretary James Mattis and greeting Australian troops in the Middle East ahead of Veterans' Day commemorations on Tuesday. "I'm delighted to travel to the United States next month to meet with President Donald J. Trump," Turnbull said. Turnbull met in Sydney over the weekend with Vice President Mike Pence, whose visit was intended to smooth over any lingering hard feelings after the prime minister's contentious phone call with Trump on Jan. 28 over

a refugee resettlement deal struck by the previous Obama administration.

Japan minister resigns over remark about 2011 tsunami

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's disaster reconstruction minister has resigned over his remark that "it was good" that the March 2011 quake and tsunami had hit northern Japan instead of areas closer to Tokyo. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe accepted Masahiro Imamura's resignation Wednesday. Imamura was replaced by Masayoshi Yoshino, former deputy environment minister from Fukushima, where more than 18,000 people died following the earthquake and tsunami. Imamura's resignation comes a day after he made the remark in a speech at a ruling party reception, which Abe also attended. Imamura came under fire earlier this month over his outburst and a suggestion during a news conference that those who left voluntarily following a meltdown of the Fukushima nuclear plant should fend for themselves.

World

Le Pen says people revolting vs elite

PARIS (AP)—Far-right presidential contender Marine Le Pen said Tuesday that people are revolting against the elite and predicted that could translate into a "very big surprise" when ballots are cast May 7 in France's final round to choose a new leader - and it will be her.

Le Pen and Emmanuel Macron, the independent centrist candidate who is her rival in the upcoming vote, sparred in successive television appearances, tossing insults as each launched a political offensive to win new voters before the balloting in less than two weeks.

Macron placed first in the first-round of the election, followed by Le Pen, and he is viewed as the favorite. Nine other candidates were eliminated.

"There is a revolt of the people against the elite" seen in Britain's Brexit vote and "probably" in the election of U.S. President Donald Trump, Le Pen said in a TF-1 television show.

"The people will probably reserve a very big surprise for the oligarchy," the anti-establishment candidate said, referring to elite decision-makers, including Macron, who is a former

economy minister and investment banker.

For Macron, Le Pen's anti-European Union, anti-immigration platform is based on "hatred for others" and contrasts with his desire to "calm" the country.

The pro-business candidate said he belongs to the "progressive camp" with a project "to make France succeed ... in a stronger Europe" that his rival wants to leave.

Those are "two clear offers that come face to face," Macron said on French public television.

Le Pen holds out a still starker comparison, saying French voters will be making a choice between "uncontrolled globalization and the nation."

She contended Macron's plan for France amounts to "fratricide," saying it would pit people and companies against each other, with the strongest winning in a land where "the markets are the boss, money the king."

Le Pen started her day at the Rungis wholesale market outside Paris, calling for more food to be produced and consumed in this country known as the gastronomic center of the Western world.

She said the French government must promote meat from France.

"Let's promote the 'eating French' especially in (school) canteens where our children must take advantage of healthy, quality products," she said.

Le Pen was booed by some workers in the fruits and vegetables section.

Criticism came from all quarters Tuesday, including from her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, the long-time nationalist leader who questioned her campaign.

He told France Inter radio that he thinks his daughter has produced a "too laid-back" campaign. He said that in her position, he would have done a "Trump-style" campaign that would have been "very aggressive against those who are responsible for the country's decadency."

He still supports her candidacy in the presidential runoff.

Jean-Marie Le Pen, who repeatedly has been convicted of crimes based on anti-Semitism and racism, founded the National Front party that his daughter took over, but a feud has divided the two.

Venezuela threatens to exit OAS as pressure on Maduro mounts

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela is threatening to pull out of the Organization of American States as the socialist government's response to political unrest that has been blamed for 26 deaths in recent weeks draws rebuke from the hemisphere's major powers.

Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez said on state TV late Tuesday that she had been instructed by President Nicolas Maduro to initiate the country's withdrawal from the Washington-based OAS if the region's foreign ministers hold a meeting on the country's crisis without his administration's backing.

Her comments came hours before envoys to the OAS were scheduled to meet Wednesday to debate a proposal by Mexico, Brazil, the U.S. and 13 other nations to convene a special meeting of foreign ministers to discuss Venezuela's "situation."

"We're not going to continue allowing legal and institutional violations that are arbitrary and surpass any moral, ethical and licit boundary that nations in this regional organization should

respect," Rodriguez said.

Hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans have flooded the streets over the last month to demand an end to Maduro's presidency. The protests have frequently ended in violent confrontations with security forces, which have used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse crowds, and there also have been clashes with pro-government groups.

The unrest shows no sign of slowing down. Another demonstration was called for midday Wednesday in which Maduro's opponents planned to try again to march downtown to deliver a message to the nation's ombudsman, whose job is to stand up for citizens' rights but who the opposition has tagged the "defender of the dictator."

Venezuela's chief prosecutor, Luisa Ortega Diaz, on Tuesday put a spotlight on the extent of the violence, saying more than 400 people had been injured and nearly 1,300 detained since the protests began in response to a Supreme Court ruling last month that stripped the opposition-controlled congress of much of its powers.

In an unusual move, Ortega

Diaz broke with the government in the immediate days after the decision to denounce it as a "rupture" of the constitutional order. The ruling was later partially reversed amid a storm of international criticism. Ever since, the prosecutor once criticized by the opposition has become an unlikely bulwark against further government repression, showing little sympathy for abuses committed by security forces and protesters alike.

"I want to express my firmest rejection to violence as an arm of political action. Politics should not lead us to war," she said Tuesday in calling for both sides to constrain their confrontational tactics.

In the majority of cases involving detentions tied to the unrest, police have not provided sufficient information to prosecute, so those arrested would have to be freed, Ortega Diaz said.

Opposition leaders have blamed armed pro-government militias known as "collectivos" for a number of the deaths, while government officials have accused the opposition of working with criminal gangs to foment unrest.

Environment

Status of forests is 'dire' as world marks 2017 Earth Day

By ANN M. SIMMONS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

They cover a third of the world's landmass, help to regulate the atmosphere, and offer shelter, sustenance and survival to millions of people, plants and animals.

But despite some progress, the planet's woodlands continue to disappear on a dramatic scale.

Since 1990 the world has lost the equivalent of 1,000 football fields of forests every hour, according to World Bank development indicators from last year. That's 1.3 million square kilometers of forest, an area larger than South Africa, according to the international financial institution.

With the observance of Earth Day on Saturday, conservationists seek to drive home the message that protection of forests is more critical than ever.

"The situation is dire," said Orion Cruz, deputy director of forest and climate policy for Earth Day Network, an organization that grew out of the first Earth Day in 1970. "Forests are being eliminated at a very rapid rate and collectively we need to address this problem as quickly as possible. There's still time to do this, but that time is quickly running out."

Tropical regions are seeing the fastest loss of forests.

Indonesia, with its thriving paper and palm oil industries, is losing more forest than any other country. Despite a forest development moratorium, the Southeast Asian nation has lost at least 39 million acres since the last century, according to research from the University of Maryland and the World Resources Institute.

Brazil, Thailand, Congo and parts of Eastern Europe also have significant deforestation, according to United

Nations data.

Brazil managed to reduce deforestation in the Amazon by at least 70 percent between 2004 and 2014 and was widely considered a success story in forest conservation, according to the World Resources Institute's Global Forest Watch initiative.

But last year, a report by Brazil's National Institute for Space Research, which monitors deforestation, found that between July 2015 and August 2016 about 2 million acres of rain forest was depleted. Experts attributed the destruction to the Brazilian government's relaxation of environmental laws, among other reasons.

"Many people around the world are concerned about whether Brazil is going to remain dedicated to protecting its forests," said Cruz. "I think what we're seeing now is a backsliding."

Meanwhile, forest loss is accelerating in other regions.

The greatest loss between 1990 and 2015 occurred in South America, the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa, according to the World Bank. A significant uptick in tree loss has been recorded in countries such as Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina, where the depletion is offsetting any gains, according to Global Forest Watch.

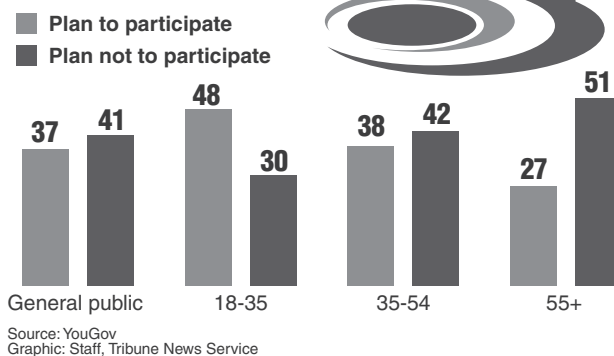
The organization pointed to Paraguay as "a notable hot spot" because of expanding cattle ranching and soybean farming. Meanwhile, of the 10 countries with the fastest acceleration of tree cover loss, almost half can be found in West Africa, according to Global Forest Watch data, which cited expansion of palm oil development as a cause of the accelerated clearing of forests.

Human needs are killing forests

Aside from the increased

Do you plan to participate on Earth Day?

The percent of adults by age group who plan to participate in this year's Earth Day by planting a tree, volunteering to clean up environment, visiting a park, etc.



demand for food, energy and minerals, the clearing of forestland for agriculture "accounts for the lion's share of the conversion of forests," according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

Rod Taylor, global director of the World Resources Institute's Forests Program, underscored the role of the "death of a thousand cuts" syndrome, in which numerous small, bad things accumulate to cause the demise of forests. For example, a flourishing forest is hit by illegal logging, animals are pushed out, humans move in and this eventually leads to degradation.

New infrastructure, including roads and rail that suddenly make very remote areas much more accessible for mining, farming or settlement, is also "often the precursor to deforestation," Taylor said.

When forests die, humans and animals feel the pain

According to the Earth Day Network, among the 1.3 billion people worldwide who live in extreme poverty (on less than \$1.25 a day), forests directly contribute to 90 percent of their livelihoods.

"People who are most vulnerable tend to be indigenous groups and people who live in and around the forest," said Taylor. "Often they have weak land rights. When land is grabbed or converted, they ... are the people who bear the brunt of it."

And neither is wildlife spared.

Outright forest clearance could result in the loss of species, while degradation — where a forest's quality is compromised — could reduce species' ability to find food and reproduce and cause potentially dan-



gerous exposure to humans, said Amy Smith, a forestry expert with the World Wildlife Fund.

For example, while tigers, elephants, rhinos and orangutans are feeling the effect of deforestation in Indonesia, the habitat of Amur tigers is being destroyed by the logging industry in Russia's Far East, and alluvial gold mining in Peru's Amazon region is threatening the environment that species such as jaguars and howler monkeys need to survive, Smith said.

Climate change and deforestation go hand in hand

Deforestation and forest degradation have caused a surge of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, according to conservationists.

Belize and Bolivia have seen their carbon emissions skyrocket in recent years as a result of increased deforestation, the World Bank reported.

"Protecting forests can give you 30 percent of the emissions reduction and carbon capture you need in order to keep the planet from overheating," said M. Sanjayan, executive vice president and senior scientist at Conservation International. "The most effective way that we could

spend to deal with climate change would be to spend on protecting on forests."

But the international community is failing to step up, conservationists said.

"If you look at the \$400 billion that is being spent globally to deal with emissions, only 2 percent of that goes towards protecting and restoring forests," Sanjayan said. "The science is really clear that we are on a dangerous path and if the world temperature increased by more than 1.5 or 2 percent it would make life extraordinarily difficult for billions of people around the planet, particularly those who live along the coast. Forests give us the most efficient way we know for mitigating that."

So what do environmentalists suggest?

"There really needs to be a multitiered, multipronged approach to this, because these are complex issues," said Smith of WWF.

Suggested solutions from conservationists include:

- Using a system of certification to hold companies accountable for better forest management, and combating illegal logging.

- Putting pressure on global corporations to reduce and eventually eliminate deforestation from their supply chain.

- Protecting the rights of indigenous people who live in forests, because they are often viewed as being the best stewards of the land.

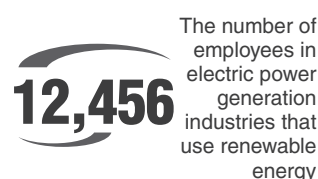
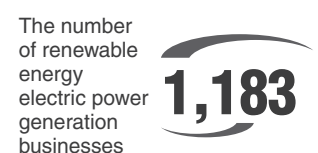
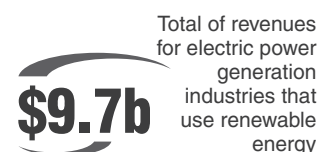
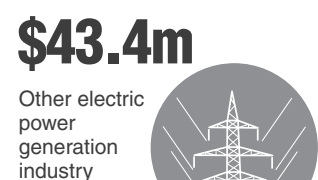
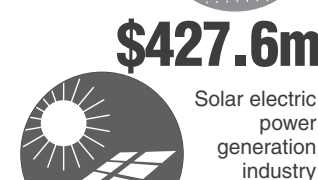
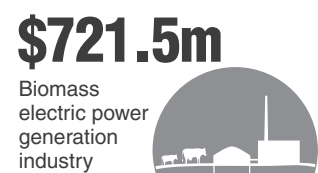
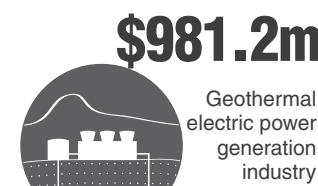
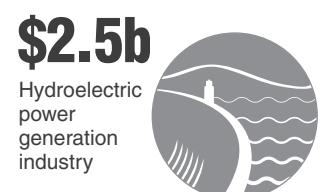
"If you don't empower indigenous and local communities, financially and legally, to take care of their home, then all is lost," said Sanjayan.

- Promoting soil restoration and reforestation efforts, while working with governments and nongovernmental organizations to establish protective zones and employ more balanced land-use practices.



April 22, 2017, marks the 47th anniversary of Earth Day, a day intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's natural environment. Below are the Census Bureau statistics pertaining to renewable energy

Revenues generated in renewable energy

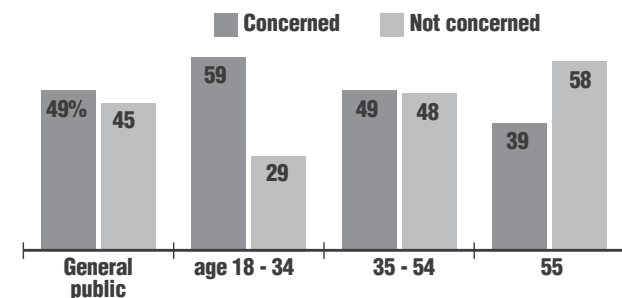


Source: U.S. Census Bureau statistics, 2012, 2014
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Concern for environment

A poll conducted by YouGov finds that millennials show the most concern for how they impact the planet.

How concerned, if at all, are you about how your typical daily activities (commuting to work, buying groceries, etc.) affect the environment?

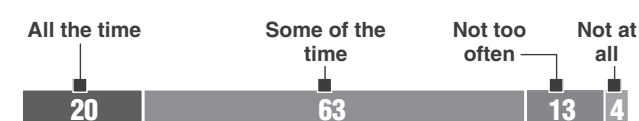


Does the environment concern you?

The percent of U.S. adults who say that they are ___ about helping the environment as they go about their daily lives



The percent of U.S. adults who say they make an effort to live in ways that help protect the environment ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown

Source: Pew Research Center
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Aretha blasts Dionne Warwick but she declines to fire back

NEW YORK (AP)—The Queen of Soul is coming out swinging against fellow legend Dionne Warwick, accusing her of making up a story that she was Whitney Houston's godmother, even though the alleged offense happened five years ago at Houston's funeral.

"She blatantly lied on me ... fully well knowing what she was doing," Aretha Franklin said in a phone interview.

Franklin called The Associated Press on Tuesday, after sending a lengthy fax the day before, to address what she claimed was a "libelous" statement against her made five years ago at Houston's funeral. At the time, Warwick told funeral-goers that Franklin was there and introduced her, but then realized she wasn't in attendance.

"Ree's not here, but she is here," Warwick said, referring to Franklin by a nickname. "She loves Whitney as if she were born to her. She is her godmother."

At the time, Franklin said she was suffering from swollen feet and had to skip the funeral so she could perform later that night at Radio City Music Hall in New York, which she said she was contractually obligated to do.

Though Cissy Houston, Whitney Houston's mother, said in the days afterward that Franklin wasn't Houston's godmother (it was Darlene Love), Franklin felt the comment was damaging to her and planned to address it at a later date.

"There's been so much going on



In this combination photo, singer Dionne Warwick arrives at the 56th annual GRAMMY Awards on Jan. 26, 2014, in Los Angeles, left, and Aretha Franklin attends the 39th Annual Kennedy Center Honors on Dec. 4, 2016, in Washington, D.C.

around her (Houston), around the service, around the drugs, around her and Bobby (Brown) supposed to be fighting, I didn't want to add anything to that and I didn't want to be a part of that," she said.

Five years later, Franklin feels that time is now.

While the story that Houston was Franklin's goddaughter has been part of her story for decades, Franklin said she first met Houston when Houston was a child - and she was far too busy to be anyone's godmother.

Franklin saw Warwick last week at the Tribeca Film Festival's premiere of mentor Clive Davis' documentary, "Clive Davis: The Soundtrack of Our Lives," and she also performed. Franklin said Warwick tried to talk to her backstage.

"She said, 'Give me a hug.' I said, 'Oh hell no. You couldn't be serious,'" Franklin said.

When asked if she wanted an apology from Warwick, she said: "I don't care about her apology, at this point it isn't about an apology, it's about libel."

She added: "We've never been friends and I don't think that Dionne has ever liked me."

Franklin once covered Warwick's hit "Walk on By," and, more famously, "I Say A Little Prayer."

When asked for comment, Warwick's representative Angelo Ellerbe said: "She will not dignify a response to the statement made by Aretha Franklin."

'Bachelor' star Chris Soules charged in deadly Iowa crash

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—Chris Soules, an Iowa farmer who starred on "The Bachelor" two years ago, was arrested Tuesday after authorities say he caused a traffic accident that killed a fellow farmer and fled the scene.

Soules, who was portrayed as a wholesome country boy looking for love on season 19 of the ABC reality show, was behind the wheel of a pickup truck that rear-ended a tractor in northern Iowa near Aurora on Monday night, the Iowa State Patrol said.

The crash caused the tractor to roll and go into a ditch on one side of the road, while Soules' truck went into a ditch on the other side, the patrol said. The tractor driver was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The patrol identified him as 66-year-old Kenneth Mosher, a farmer from Aurora.

Soules wasn't injured in the accident and left the area before emergency responders arrived, the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office said. He was arrested later at his home in Arlington, which is



In this June 19, 2015, file photo, Iowa farmer Chris Soules, a former star of ABC's "The Bachelor," speaks during a news conference before a NASCAR event in Newton, Iowa.

about 10 miles (16 kilometers) north of Aurora and 75 miles (120 kilometers) north of Iowa City.

Authorities said someone had called 911 to report the crash, but they didn't release the identity of the caller or

audio of the call. Investigators spoke to multiple witnesses and determined that Soules caused the crash and fled, according to a complaint, which doesn't name the witnesses.

Police audio of the inci-

dent obtained by the Des Moines Register shows that a deputy told a dispatcher Soules "took off" in a red truck while Mosher was unconscious in his vehicle.

Alcohol was found at the scene, and investigators are

trying to determine whose it was, said Sheriff Bill Wolgram. Court records show that Soules has had some driving infractions in the past, including a 2006 conviction for operating while intoxicated.

Soules, 35, was arrested about five hours after the crash and then booked into the Buchanan County Jail on a charge of leaving the scene of a fatal accident, which carries a penalty of up to five years in prison. He was released around midday on \$10,000 bond, and will be required to surrender his passport and wear an electronic monitoring ankle bracelet until his trial, jail officials said.

The sheriff's office said the crash remains under investigation and additional charges could be filed.

Soules' lawyers, Sean and Molly Spellman, didn't immediately reply to messages seeking comment. His spokesman, Stan Rosenfield, issued a statement saying Soules "was devastated" to learn that Mosher died.

"His thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Mosher's family," said Rosenfield, who declined to comment further.

Soules first drew national attention as a participant in "The Bachelorette" in 2014, when he tried to win the affections of star Andi Dorfman but was passed over. A fan favorite, ABC had him back as "The Bachelor" the following year. His appearance drew attention to farming life and some of the struggles facing rural Iowa. He proposed to Chicago fertility nurse Whitney Bischoff at the end of his season, but their relationship ended shortly after the show.

Soules has since served as a spokesman for various agricultural interests and worked in farm real estate and investing.

The crash comes as Gov. Terry Branstad and lawmakers have expressed alarm about a rising number of deaths on Iowa roadways caused by intoxicated and distracted drivers. Branstad last week signed laws allowing officers to pull over drivers for texting while driving, increasing the penalties for texting-related vehicular homicides, and creating a statewide sobriety and drug monitoring program for intoxicated drivers.

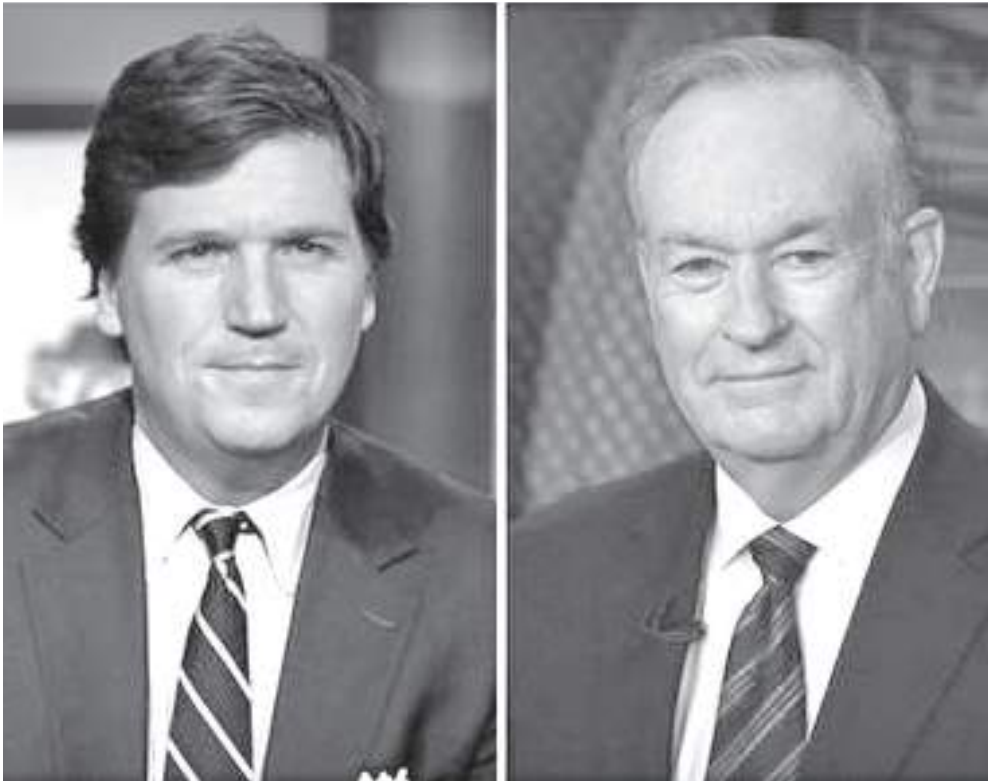
Lawsuit filed against Fox alleges racial discrimination

NEW YORK (AP)—An expanded lawsuit filed Tuesday accuses Fox News Channel of racial discrimination “that appears more akin to Plantation-style management than a modern-day work environment.”

The lawsuit, filed in state Supreme Court, adds eight former and current Fox employees to a case involving three former Fox workers and their accusations against a since-fired Fox financial executive. It also expands the case to include Dianne Brandi, Fox’s chief counsel.

Fox News said it vehemently denies the allegations, calling them “copycat complaints.” It said Brandi denies the claims against her.

The original lawsuit was filed in late March by two black women who worked in the network’s payroll department, and a third colleague later joined it. The expanded lawsuit, incorporating the other employees, seeks unspecified compensatory damages and an elimination of unlawful employment



practices at Fox.

The workers allege that their complaints about the actions of Judith Slater, the fired former comptroller, went unanswered for years. They say Brandi told them it was because Slater “knew too much”

about former Fox Chairman Roger Ailes and top-rated host Bill O’Reilly, who have been ousted over the past year because of sexual-harassment accusations.

A lawyer for Slater, Catherine Foti, said the actions

against Slater are meritless and frivolous. She said “all claims of racial discrimination against Ms. Slater are completely false.”

One plaintiff, on-air personality Kelly Wright, who’s black, said he’d been effec-

^{AP}
In this combination photo, Tucker Carlson, host of “Tucker Carlson Tonight,” appears on the set in New York, Thursday, March 2, 2107, left, and Fox News personality Bill O’Reilly appears on the set of his show,

tively sidelined and asked to perform the role of a Jim Crow, an insulting slang term to refer to a black man, according to the lawsuit. Wright said O’Reilly, who’s white, refused to show a piece Wright had prepared after racial protests in Ferguson, Missouri, because they showed blacks in too positive a light.

A former employee, Musfiq Rahman, a dark-skinned Bangladeshi, said he was punished after mistakenly walking into Ailes’ office by no longer being allowed on Ailes’ floor without an escort.

Mark LeGrier, a former financial employee who’s black, said he was subjected to retaliation when he complained to Brandi about Slater’s behavior.

“When it comes to racial discrimination, 21st Century

Fox has been operating as if it should be called 18th Century Fox,” said Douglas Wigdor, a lawyer for the plaintiffs.

Meanwhile, Nielsen company ratings showed that Tucker Carlson moved into O’Reilly’s old time slot at Fox News on Monday night and took over his status as the most-watched host in cable news—at least for a night.

O’Reilly, who hosted “The O’Reilly Factor,” was fired by Fox last week following news about Fox settling sexual-harassment cases involving him for millions of dollars. He has denied the allegations.

Nielsen said Carlson’s first night at 8 p.m. attracted 3.17 million viewers, beating the combined audience of MS-NBC’s Chris Hayes, who reached 1.52 million viewers, and CNN’s Anderson Cooper, who reached 1 million.

Carlson did not beat O’Reilly’s nearly 4 million average during the first three months of the year. Carlson had averaged 3.3 million in the 9 p.m. time slot following O’Reilly.

NBC reporter, Latina journalism pioneer Cecilia Alvear dies

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Cecilia Alvear, who fought for Latino inclusion in newsrooms and reached unprecedented heights for a Hispanic woman in journalism in a decades-long career with NBC news, has died, her partner said Tuesday.

Alvear, who also served as president of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, died at her home in Santa Monica after suffering from breast cancer that recurred in 2012, her longtime partner George Lewis said. Alvear was 77.

A native of Ecuador born in

the Galapagos on the island of San Cristobal, Alvear came to the U.S. in 1965 and worked in a congressman’s office until getting a job as a TV news production assistant in 1971.

At the time, roles for women in journalism were few and roles for Latinos were even fewer. As she moved through various jobs in local television in Los Angeles, she was often the only member of either group working in news production. But she fought to make sure that the environment would change.

“She was a relentless campaigner for more diversity in

newsrooms,” Lewis told the Los Angeles Times.

In 1982, NBC News tapped her to run its Mexico City bureau. From there she covered wars and revolutions in Nicaragua and El Salvador, and she produced several interviews with Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

“I met Cecilia in 1982 when she was sent, as an NBC producer at the height of the Cold War, to run the war coverage of NBC in Latin America,” Anne-Marie O’Connor an ex-LA Times reporter, told the paper. “At the time it was rare to even meet a female producer, much less an Ecuadorian-born

Latina who spoke English with an accent. Cecilia broke the mold.”

Alvear never graduated from college, but she completed a prestigious Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University in 1989.

In 1994 while on assignment in Mexico, she learned she had breast cancer for the first time. She was free and clear of the disease until it returned 18 years later.

She remained with NBC until her retirement in 2007.

She is survived by Lewis, four sisters, and two half-brothers.

Mick Jagger avoids limelight as Charlie Watts wins award

LONDON (AP)—It’s not often Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger tries to avoid the spotlight and shift attention to drummer Charlie Watts.

But that happened Tuesday night at Jazz FM’s gala in London when Watts received the Gold Award for a lifetime of blues, jazz and rock excellence.

The Stones also won two awards. But Jagger focused attention on the shy Watts, insisting he say a few words

to acknowledge his special honor.

The beautifully dressed drummer managed a brief “thank you” to the crowd at Shoreditch Town Hall.

The event included a tribute to jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald on what would have been her 100th birthday.

It also featured the often reticent singer-songwriter Van Morrison in a supporting role giving a lifetime award to sometimes bandmate Georgie Fame.

Classmate won’t stop bullying despite pleas from her friend

DEAR ABBY: I’m writing because I see a lot of bullying going on at school. One of the bullies is a friend of mine and I’ve asked her to stop, but she doesn’t listen. How I can get through to her so she understands that she’s hurting someone’s feelings? She treats people like they don’t have feelings, like they are non-human. If you can’t answer this letter, I’ll understand, but if you find the time, I would greatly appreciate it.

NOT A BULLY IN INDIANA

DEAR NOT A BULLY: People bully others for a variety of reasons. Among them, because they are angry and enjoy taking it out on others, because they themselves have been bullied, because it gives them a sense of power, or simply because they enjoy it. Not knowing your “friend,” I can’t guess what’s driving her behavior. I suggest that you ask her what her reason is and after you hear her answer, you re-evaluate whether to distance yourself from her because, with bullies, the target can change and no one is safe.

DEAR ABBY: We set limits on our son’s screen time at home. My mother-in-law lets him have quite a bit more screen time when he visits her. My husband thinks grandparents should have the right to determine everything about how they

treat and care for their grandchildren. What do you think?

MOTHER IN BOULDER, COLO.

DEAR MOTHER: I think grandparents should respect the rules that parents set for their children because there are usually good reasons for them. I also think that for your in-laws to ignore your wishes as they have been doing is disrespectful, and your husband should consider that before concluding that his parents have the right to ignore them.

DEAR ABBY: A couple of months ago my husband and I received a very nice “save the date” for a wedding in August in a town nearby. There were many nice photos of the engaged couple on the card. The problem is, we have no idea who they are.

We called our families to ask if they had received one too, thinking maybe it was a long-lost relative. I even went so far as checking social media, thinking we might have friends in common, but we don’t. I’m hoping the actual invitation may offer more clues, but I don’t think it will.

While this was clearly addressed to us, my fear is that it was intended for someone else who may not be “saving the date” and it may cause some tension within their family. What would be proper when the invitation arrives? Do I check “will

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



not attend” and send it back, or should I include a note with an explanation?

SAVE THE DATE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR SAVE THE DATE: You are a nice person. A simple “regret that we cannot attend” should be sufficient and by all means include the note.

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Pastimes

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CROSSWORD

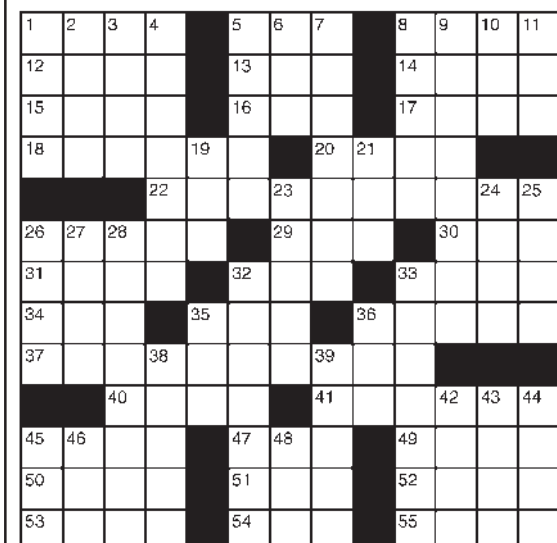
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Be quiet!"
- 5 Standard
- 8 Holly-wood clashers
- 12 End in — (re-quire extra innings)
- 13 — Jima
- 14 Traditional tales
- 15 Mideast strip
- 16 Grazing land
- 17 Clinton's veep
- 18 Everest guide
- 20 Hearing-impaired
- 22 Sanctuary
- 26 Scented soap brand
- 29 Cauldron
- 30 Citrus drink
- 31 Vacationing
- 32 Springy dance
- 33 Entreaty
- 34 Hogwash
- 35 Soft shoe, for short
- 36 Heming-way's fishing boat
- 37 Avoid taking risks
- 40 Lettuce unit
- 41 Piercing yell
- 45 Herbal brews
- 47 Fre-quently
- 49 Job for Holmes
- 50 Literary Jane
- 51 Misery
- 52 "Como — usted?"
- 53 Maui garlands
- 54 Neither mate
- 55 Not working
- DOWN**
- 1 Cronos
- 2 Beehive State
- 3 Dimension
- 4 Gossip
- 5 Rice recipe
- 6 Shock partner
- 7 Selfish driver
- 8 "Pomp and Circum-stance"
- 9 Knuckle-head
- 10 Hockey's Bobby
- 11 Observe
- 19 Salary
- 21 Dig in
- 23 Grand stories
- 24 Classic theaters
- 25 Bring up
- 26 Kvetch
- 27 MP's quarry
- 28 Seductive spy
- 32 Note
- 33 Like some earlobes
- 35 Ms. Farrow
- 36 USMC rank
- 38 Affirmatives
- 39 Fall flower
- 42 Lighten
- 43 "The Thin Man" dog
- 44 Hoover Dam lake
- 45 — Aviv
- 46 Storm center
- 48 Egg — yung

Solution time: 26 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-27



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Austin Dillon, 27; Jenna-Louise Coleman, 31; Patrick Stump, 33; Ari Graynor, 34.

Happy Birthday: Use your insight and ability to detect how others will respond to your advances. Don't hold back or give in to anyone who tries to take over or push you in a direction that will hurt your chances of advancement. Your dedication and hard work will lead to success and put those who oppose you at arm's length. Your numbers are 4, 10, 14, 23, 33, 41, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep original ideas to yourself until you have had a chance to flush out any flaws. Someone you respect will give you valuable information that can shape the way you move forward personally. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Getting along with your peers, family and partners will be necessary if you want things to run smoothly. Choose your words wisely and be sure to include everyone in your plans. Diplomacy will go a long way when dealing with others. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look over financial papers and prepare your taxes or other government documents carefully. Not disclosing information will lead to problems that could make it difficult for you to move forward. Having a clear conscience will ease your stress. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A partnership can take on a double meaning. Personal and professional gains can be made if you get involved with the right people. Keep

your thoughts and feelings out in the open to avoid giving anyone a false impression. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your emotions under control when doing business with someone who may not see things your way. Use your intelligence, experience and knowledge to handle whatever situation you face to bring about positive results. Practice what you preach. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Business trips, educational pursuits and networking will help you advance your objectives. Take time to nurture a relationship you have with someone special. Sharing your feelings, intentions and concerns will help you move forward. Romance is in the stars. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A joint venture will help you get ahead. Collaborate with someone who has the skills you lack, and vice versa, and it will help keep the momentum flowing. Take an interest in physical activity that promotes better stamina and health. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Personal gains can be made if you work hard to improve your health, physical appearance and your relationships with others. Your unique way of doing things should be viewed as a plus, not a negative, by those you associate with. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotional confusion will set in if you let someone guilt you into something you really don't care to do. Make decisions that will bring you the most in return. Keep demanding people at a distance and pursue your goals. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A unique change to the way you live or the choices you make will help you avoid encounters with individuals who may cause you grief, concern or other complications. Look out for your own interests and well-being. ****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone from your past will tempt you to get involved in something that can influence your financial standing. Joint ventures will not be to your advantage and should not be considered. Do your own thing and be secretive about what you do. **



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Focus on quality, not quantity. Look for an alternative way to help solve a problem. Get together with someone you haven't seen for a long time. The encounter will help you see a situation with greater clarity. ****

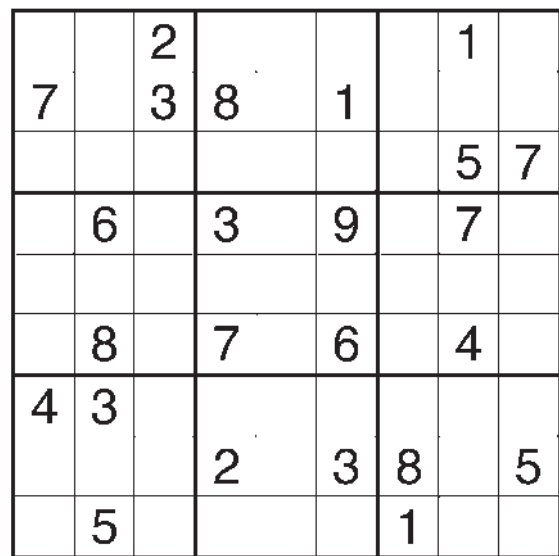
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

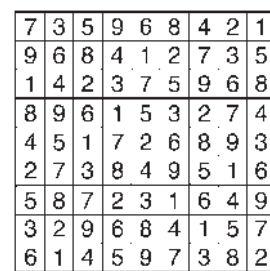


Difficulty Level ★★ ★

4/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★ ★

4/27

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PLAYING THE MARIMBA

Solution: 6 letters

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T S I A R A E R K V A Y C R G
N N T T T F S T I C B A U O R
Y A A W C T A S I B A R S P E
S E L N O H A X C R N S M B
N B U E B T A R A A D S I E I
O B M D I O O N H O L D O T F
S I I O R N G N O T E E N N L
S R N O C E S T E E H S S O A
E A U W H S P E E D R U M C T
L C M A L L E T S R E N U T S

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Africa, Aluminum, Band, Bars, Birch, Caribbean, Chiapas, Concertos, Contemporary, Drum, Fiberglass, Flats, Grip, Hold, Improvisational, Keys, Lessons, Lower, Mallets, Note, Oaxaca, Orchestra, Padouk, Percussion, Pitch, Range, Rattan, Rosewood, Scales, Sharps, Sheets, Sound, Speed, Strike, Synthetic, Tones, Tuners, Two-toned, Wooden, Yarn

Yesterday's Answer: Peas

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com

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Yankees weather rain, Royals comeback

PAGE 25

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U14 Circuit

Rockets advance with 105-99 win over Thunder



HOUSTON (AP)—James Harden had 34 points and his supporting cast helped the Houston Rockets overcome a 47-point game by Russell Westbrook to get a 105-99 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday night to advance to the Western Conference semifinals.

The Thunder head home a year after advancing to the Western Conference finals after Houston took this series 4-1.

The Rockets used a 5-1 run, with all their points coming on free throws, to pull away from the Thunder and make it 98-91. Victor Oladipo threw a pass about 5 feet above Westbrook's head and out of bounds on the next possession and Harden made a layup on the other end with about 3 minutes left.

The Rockets began eating up the clock after that and Oklahoma City missed shot after shot that could have closed the gap.

Houston couldn't add to its lead though and the Thunder cut it to 4 points twice in the final seconds, with the second one coming on a basket by Alex Abrines. But Harden made two free throws both times they got close to secure the win.

After scoring 20 points in the third quarter, Westbrook made just 2 of 11 fourth-quarter shots in a disappointing end to a stellar season where he became the first player since Oscar Robertson in 1961-62 to average a triple-double by scoring an NBA-best 31.6 points a game, with 10.7 rebounds and 10.4 assists. He also set an NBA record for most triple-doubles with 42 to help the Thunder withstand the loss of All-Star Kevin Durant in free agency.

He had 11 rebounds and nine assists to come just shy of his fourth straight triple-double in this series, but he made just 5 of a career-high 18 3-point attempts.

Lou Williams added 22 points and Patrick Beverley had 15 to help the Rockets get out of the first round for the second time in three seasons in front of a crowd that included Hall of Famer Hakeem Olajuwon, rapper Travis Scott and his rumored girlfriend and reality star Kylie Jenner.

The Thunder had a five-point lead entering the fourth quarter and led by 3 after a jump shot by Jerami Grant early in the quarter. The Rockets then used a 10-2 run to take an 86-81 lead with about 9 minutes left. Williams made the last eight points in that stretch, making three free throws to start it and capping



AP
Houston Rockets' Clint Capela (15) blocks the shot of Oklahoma City Thunder's Alex Abrines during the second half in Game 5 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Tuesday, April 25, 2017, in Houston. The Rockets won, 105-99, and took the series.

at halftime.

"He brought that grandpa juice is what I call it and we all followed," Patty Mills said. "We shouldn't wait for him to do that before we get into gear, but it really is inspiring when you see him dive on the ball putting his body on the line. Hard drives, hard cuts, it gets us all going."

With each team winning on its homecourt, Game 6 is Thursday night in Memphis.

"We expected it to be a long series," said Grizzlies point guard Mike Conley, who had a team-high 26 points. "Every game, including tonight, is a Game 7 in our opinion, we're treating every game like it's the last game. We expect to come back here (Saturday for Game 7)."

Jazz 96, Clippers 92

In Los Angeles, Gordon Hayward scored 27 points, Utah controlled the paint, and the Jazz beat the Clippers 96-92 to take a 3-2 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Hayward returned after missing most of Utah's win in Game 4 because of food poisoning that caused him to lose weight and energy.

Chris Paul's 3-pointer drew the Clippers within two with 5 seconds left. After George Hill hit two free throws, Paul struggled getting the ball under control near the sideline and couldn't do anything as time expired.

The Jazz made five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, including three by Rodney Hood, who finished with 16 points.

Paul led the Clippers with 28 points and J.J. Redick added 26 with injured star Blake Griffin watching from the bench, his right foot encased in a black walking boot.

The Jazz can clinch the series with a victory in Game 6 on Friday night in Salt Lake City.

Stricker denied special exemption to US Open

WISCONSIN (AP)—Steve Stricker always thought it was a long shot, and he recently was reminded that the USGA is tight when it comes to special exemptions for the U.S. Open.

"I wrote them quite a while back and asked for one, and they politely called me and declined," Stricker said.

The U.S. Open will be played in Wisconsin this year for the first time, June 15-18 at Erin Hills, a little more than an hour east of where Stricker lives in Madison. Stricker is a 12-time winner on the PGA Tour who reached as high as No. 2 in the world.

He didn't think that was enough to warrant a special exemption, but his brother-in-law and agent, Mario Tiziani, told him it was worth a shot.

The U.S. Open gave an exemption last year to two-time champion Retief Goosen. Before that, it gave exemptions to Vijay Singh and Tom Watson in 2010 at Pebble Beach. The last player awarded an exemption without having won a major? That would be Aaron Baddeley in 2000 when he was a 19-year-old amateur at Pebble Beach.

Stricker, the U.S. captain for the Presidents Cup this year, still hopes to be at Erin Hills.

He's just trying to figure

out the best path.

Stricker turned 50 in February and has been splitting time on both tours. He has top 10s in his three starts on the PGA Tour Champions, including a runner-up finish to Tom Lehman in Arizona. He tied for 16th in the Masters earlier this month, his best finish in four starts on the PGA Tour.

If nothing else, Stricker has entered U.S. Open sectional qualifying in Tennessee. That's where he played a year ago, missing out on qualifying by one shot. But at No. 94 in the world and the bare minimum divisor because of his limited schedule, he still can reach the top 60 by May 22 or by the Monday of the U.S. Open.

Stricker is playing the Zurich Classic this week with Jerry Kelly (they tied for eighth last week at the Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf), which won't help his cause toward the U.S. Open because no world ranking points are awarded.

After a week off, he will be at The Players Championship and then the Regions Tradition, the first of five majors on the PGA Tour Champions. And then he's undecided. The following week is the Senior PGA Championship, which is the same week as Colonial.

it with a 3-pointer from way behind the line.

Houston was up by 6 early in the third quarter before using a 7-2 spurt to make it 61-50 with about 7 minutes left in the quarter. Harden got things going in that span and Beverley capped it with four straight points.

The Thunder started rolling after that, using a 12-3 run, with seven points from Westbrook, to get within 2 with about 5 minutes left in the quarter. Houston's offense went cold in that span with its only points coming on free throws by Harden.

Five straight points by the Thunder a couple of minutes later, highlighted by a 3-pointer from Westbrook, gave the Thunder a 69-68 lead.

Harden made two free throws after that before Westbrook hit two 3-pointers in about 30 seconds to extend Oklahoma City's lead

to 77-70.

The Rockets were unhappy with a few calls in the first quarter and team owner Leslie Alexander got up from his courtside seat and walked over to a referee during play late in the quarter apparently to express his displeasure before sitting back down.

Houston led 51-44 at halftime.

Spurs 116, Grizzlies 103

In San Antonio, the Spurs turned to their "grandpa" for the lift their young stars have struggled to provide in the past two games.

Manu Ginobili hit the court, literally, providing an early spark that helped carry San Antonio to a victory over Memphis.

Kawhi Leonard had 28 points and the Spurs rebounded from two discouraging road losses to beat the Grizzlies on

Tuesday night and take a 3-2 lead in their first-round series.

Ginobili had 10 points, three assists and three steals in 18 minutes. It was not an overly impressive stat line, but it was how the 39-year-old played that energized San Antonio.

In what could be the final season of his storied 15-year NBA career, Ginobili threw his body to the court and drove to the basket with the fearlessness he showed as a rookie.

"You know that he's got a huge heart, and he has a huge effect on our team when he's healthy," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "And having a good night, starting out the way he did, was really a big boost."

After failing to score in the first four games, Ginobili had six points in 33 seconds in the first quarter. He hit the court face-first after stealing the ball and getting tangled up with Vince Carter to preserve a lead



Coghlan's leap, Stroman's hit lift Blue Jays vs Cards



ST. LOUIS
(AP)—To-

ronto's Chris Coghlan called it instinct. It was more like a leap of faith.

Coghlan made an acrobatic, run-scoring bound over St. Louis All-Star catcher Yadier Molina, and Marcus Stroman came across with the go-ahead run after pinch hitting in the 11th inning and doubling for his first major league hit in the Blue Jays' 6-5 win over the Cardinals on Tuesday night.

With the score 2-2, Coghlan walked in the seventh and sped around the bases on Kevin Pillar's triple in the right-field corner, which hit high off the fence over Stephen Piscotty and bounced back toward the infield.

Piscotty's throw to the plate was slightly up the third-base line, and Molina leaned down to pick up the ball after its third hop. As Molina reached for the ball, the 31-year-old Coghlan hurled himself over the catcher, somersaulted and landed on the plate with his helmet and left hand.

"I was coming around third and I looked to my left to see where the ball was and I saw it was going to beat me and probably the last step or two I saw Yadi go down," Coghlan said. "You're first thought is, 'OK, I'm going to run him over cause he's right over the plate.' And then I was thinking, 'since he's down, why don't you jump?'"

Blue Jays starter Marco Estrada couldn't believe it.

"When I saw Coghlan do a front flip over Molina, it was like I saw a unicorn or something," Estrada said. "It's just something that never happens. You might not ever see that again."

Blue Jays manager John Gibbons was impressed.

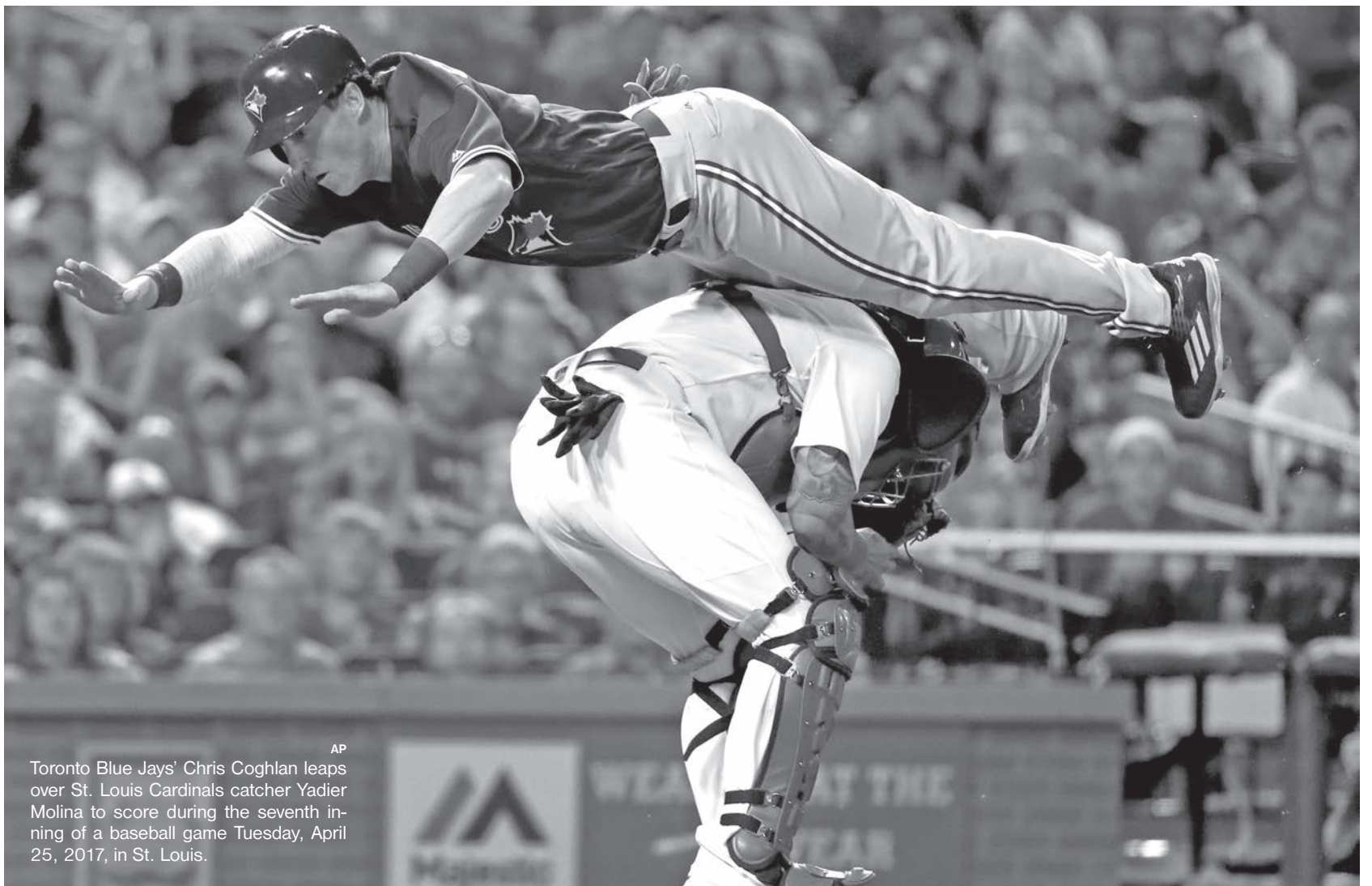
"He got up there didn't he? You've got to win that game because that's what made it worthwhile," Gibbons said. "You probably don't see that for 100 years."

Coghlan actually made contact with Molina's shoulder, which prevented what could have been a dangerous landing.

"It was going to be an ugly fall because I just didn't have enough momentum going forward so it helped that I hit Yadi," Coghlan said. "It kicked my feet up so it wasn't that bad of a landing."

Dexter Fowler's two-out infield single off Roberto Osuna in the ninth tied the score 5-5.

Stroman, a pitcher who had been 0 for 5 in six previous big league plate appearances, pinch hit for reliever Jason Grilli (1-2) leading off the 11th because the Blue Jays were out of position players. He



AP
Toronto Blue Jays' Chris Coghlan leaps over St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina to score during the seventh inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 25, 2017, in St. Louis.

fell behind 0-2 in the count, fouled off a pitch and took a ball, then lined a slider from Miguel Socolovich (0-1) into the left-field corner. After Pillar popped out, Steve Pearce hit a grounder to shortstop Aledmys Diaz, who threw wildly as Stroman scored on the Cardinals' fourth error—all of which led to runs.

Brewers 9, Reds 1

In Milwaukee, Eric Thames hit his major league-leading 11th home run—his eighth against Cincinnati this season—and the Milwaukee Brewers cruised to a win over the Reds.

In his first season with the Brewers, Thames capped a five-run sixth with a two-run drive off reliever Robert Stephenson.

Zach Davies (2-2) allowed six hits in five scoreless innings, lowering his ERA from 8.24 to 6.57. He stranded a pair of runners in three innings.

Cubs 1, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Kyle Hendricks rediscovered his 2016 form, limiting Pittsburgh to four hits over six innings to outduel Gerrit Cole and lead Chicago to a win.

Hendricks (2-1) struck out two and walked three, and Wade Davis worked a perfect ninth for his fifth save as the Cubs won for the sixth time in seven games.

Addison Russell doubled in the second off Cole (1-3) and scored when second baseman Alen Hanson airmailed

first base on a Jason Heyward grounder, the Pirates' major league-high 20th error this season. Pittsburgh has lost six of eight.

Nationals 15, Rockies 12

In Denver, Trea Turner hit for the third cycle in Nationals history and drove in a career-high seven runs, helping Washington to a win over Colorado on a frigid night.

Turner—with a red ski mask covering his face—had a single in the first, a two-run double in the second, a two-run homer in the sixth and a bases-loaded triple in the seventh. It was the first cycle by the Nationals since Cristian Guzman on Aug. 28, 2008.

Turner's seven RBI are tied for second-most in a single game in Nationals history. Daniel Murphy also had a big night, tying a career best by driving in five runs.

Dodgers 2, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Clayton Kershaw struck out seven over seven innings in another impressive performance in San Francisco's home ballpark, and Los Angeles ended a four-game losing streak against its rival.

Kershaw (4-1) allowed six hits and one run, walking one as he improved to 11-4 in 19 outings and 18 starts in San Francisco's waterfront ballpark.

The Dodgers also ended a six-game skid at AT&T Park to avoid matching the franchise's longest winless stretch in San Francisco from April 21-Sept. 28, 2015.

Tigers 19, Mariners 9

In Detroit, James McCann, Justin Upton and Alex Avila homered—and that was before Detroit added nine runs in the fifth inning en route to a rout of Seattle.

Felix Hernandez (2-2) left with stiffness in his right shoulder. He allowed four runs in two innings in his shortest outing since 2015, and Seattle's next two pitchers fared even worse. Detroit finished with 24 hits, 19 of which came in the first five innings.

Angels 2, Athletics 1, 11 innings

In Anaheim, Kole Calhoun ripped a two-out single in the 11th inning to score Danny Espinosa and send Los Angeles to a victory over Oakland.

Jesse Hahn pitched eight innings for Oakland and JC Ramirez went seven for Los Angeles as the game remained scoreless until Josh Phegley and Mike Trout hit solo homers in the 10th.

Ryan Madson (0-2) allowed singles to Espinosa and Calhoun in the 11th after Brooks Pounders (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

Astros 4, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Dallas Keuchel (4-0) pitched a six-hitter, allowing home runs to Austin Jackson in the third and Michael Brantley in the ninth that raised his ERA to 1.22.

Josh Reddick gave Houston a 3-1 lead with a two-run single in the fifth Josh Tomlin (1-3), then took a home

run away from Jason Kipnis with a leaping catch at the center-field fence in the bottom half.

Houston is 10-2 since April 11 and leads the AL West at 14-6.

Astros second baseman Jose Altuve and outfielder Teoscar Hernandez collided in right while chasing Yan Gomes' eighth-inning popup, which dropped for a single.

Rays 2, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, Austin Pruitt combined with four relievers on a two-hitter in his first big league start. Pruitt allowed one hit in three innings, Danny Farquhar got two outs, Jumbo Diaz went 1 1/3 innings, Chase Whitley (1-0) contributed three perfect innings and Alex Colome finished for his fifth save.

Jonathan Schoop had a second-inning double and Chris Davis a fourth-inning infield single.

Wade Miley (1-1) gave up four hits and six walks in seven innings.

Diamondbacks 9, Padres 3

In Phoenix, Paul Goldschmidt drove in three runs to match a team record with his fourth straight multi-RBI game, Patrick Corbin struck out nine in seven innings and Arizona rolled over San Diego.

The Diamondbacks jumped on Clayton Richard (2-3) early and kept hitting to match the 2008 team for the franchise's best home start at 10-2.

Corbin (2-3) allowed two runs and eight hits, including a solo homer by Jabari Blash in the seventh inning.

Twins 8, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Ervin Santana delivered his fourth straight outstanding start, Miguel Sano sparked a seven-run fifth inning with a leadoff homer and Minnesota pounded Texas.

Santana (4-0) allowed a run, four hits and one walk with six strikeouts in seven innings.

Both homers came off Andrew Cashner (0-2), who labored through his four-plus innings. He matched a career high with six walks, allowed five hits, had a wild pitch and threw 92 pitches.

White Sox 10, Royals 5

In Chicago, Todd Frazier drove in three runs, Leury Garcia had three hits and Chicago got its second straight one-sided win over Kansas City.

Kansas City is 0-6 on a seven-game trip, its longest skid since losing eight consecutive games last June. Last in the AL Central at 7-13, the Royals are off to their worst 20-game start since opening 6-14 in 2012, when they finished 72-90.

Frazier's sacrifice fly tied the score in the third inning, and Chicago took a 4-2 lead in the fourth against Danny Duffy (2-1) when Omar Narvaez and Garcia hit consecutive doubles, and Tim Anderson followed with an RBI single.

Rams adjusting in first practice with new head coach McVay



THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—It was a day of adjustments for the

Los Angeles Rams, familiarizing themselves with new coaches, schemes and positions as they held their first minicamp practice under Sean McVay on Tuesday.

Even the 31-year-old McVay wasn't immune to the changes, trying to figure out his place as a head coach after three seasons as offensive coordinator in Washington.

"He was actually over there with our group, the DB group, throwing balls and whatnot," cornerback Trumaine Johnson said. "I told him I know he's the head coach, but he's on the offensive side. Can't be over here with the defense right now."

McVay might have started practice with the secondary, but his mindset still rests with the offense for now.

"I was telling our secondary coaches on the back end I got to get used to being happy for the defense on a good play, too," McVay said.

There was plenty for McVay to be happy about on both sides of the ball, starting with quarterback Jared Goff. After struggling during his seven starts as a rookie last season, Goff looked confident and calm in executing all aspects of McVay's new system.

"It went a lot better than



Los Angeles Rams coach Sean McVay gestures in this undated photo.

AP

maybe a lot of us thought it would," Goff said. "There weren't that many hiccups. You come out on the first day and you expect there to be some re-dos and some stuff you kind of have to do over and talk about and, for the most part, it went really smoothly. I was really happy with it."

Developing Goff, who was selected with the top pick in the 2016 draft after the Rams gave up a haul that ended up including the No. 5 selection in Thursday's first round, is the main goal for McVay.

Accomplishing that means upgrading the supporting cast

around Goff to give him every opportunity to succeed.

Goff already showed a strong rapport with new wide receiver Robert Woods, the former Southern California star who spent four seasons with the Buffalo Bills.

The Rams also added left tackle Andrew Whitworth and center John Sullivan in free agency, while former starting right tackle Rob Havenstein worked at right guard for the first time.

Havenstein is preparing to play any position on the offensive line except center, "which is a good thing," he joked after last snapping a

football in high school.

On defense, Robert Quinn downplayed his move from end to outside linebacker in coordinator Wade Phillips' preferred 3-4 alignment.

"Just go and make plays is what they say," Quinn said.

For Johnson, however, there will be no move. General manager Les Snead said earlier on Tuesday that the Rams are not interested in trading Johnson and the focus is on trying to negotiate a long-term contract after twice using the franchise tag on him.

Johnson signed his one-year, \$16.7 million tender last month.

qualifiers will provide our players the exposure they need to continue their development, individually and collectively," Angeles added.

The CNMI U15 players are training three times a week (Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday) at the Koblerville pitch and the indoor field at the TSL Sports Complex and the coaches are planning to hold two practice sessions per day as the tournament nears. They are also hoping to have another training camp off-island. Early this month, the U18 group went to Guam for training matches and won three out of their four games.

AFC U16 Championship Qualifiers that will be held in Thailand from Sept. 16 to 24.

Aside from the host country, the Teen Ayuyus will be squaring off against Laos, Timor-Lester, and Indonesia in the Group G qualifier.

"Just like Australia, we've never played against Indonesia before. All the teams that we will be facing for the first time will help our players a lot. It will be a learning experience for them and an opportunity to see how their skills would fare against players from big countries where there are many leagues and tournaments. The two AFC

play. We're also doing some research against the other teams," Angeles said.

The venue for the Group J qualifiers has yet to be announced, but Angeles said Australia and Hong Kong are likely to bid for the hosting rights. Eight of the other nine groups have already selected venues for their respective qualifiers. The top finisher in each pool and the five best runner-up teams along with the 2018 host country will advance to the finals.

Meanwhile, Angeles, Takano, and Mita are also preparing the CNMI U15 Boys National Team for the 2018

apiece. In the first half, only Ronald Bernardo made more than two field goals for the 670 Sonics XVIII.

Meanwhile, the NMI Rollers and Ol'Aces Extreme won the final two games in the boys U15 division last Saturday.

The Ol'Aces Extreme escaped with a 61-59 victory over the Natibu Young Warriors, thanks to the three free throws of Justin Laniyo.

Laniyo finished with 9 points to back up Nehemiah Fernandez, who led the Ol'Aces Extreme with his 21 points. Fernandez drilled two of the Ol'Aces Extreme's last

three field goals to keep the squad in front.

Joel Norita paced the Young Warriors with his 19 markers, while Francisco Kumuch added 17.

While the Ol'Aces Extreme pulled off a close win last Saturday, it was a different story for the DYS/NMI Rollers.

DYS/NMI Rollers cruised past Agape, 68-43, after taking control of the match right from the get-go. DYS/NMI Rollers posted a 39-19 lead by halftime and never gave Agape a chance to recover.

Chico Dela Cruz stood out for DYS/NMI Rollers with

his 14 points, while J.P. Cruz logged 12. Five other DYS/NMI Rollers players scored at least 5 points apiece in their easy win.

Chen Xuan Yang had 12 points for Agape.

BOYS U18 Monday Game

670 Sonics XVIII 52 — Paragados 11, Bernardo 10, Chavez 7, Bautista 5, Malasarte 4, Diyo 3, Moises 2, Garcia 1, Muna 1.

670 Sonics XVI 44 — De Guzman 10, Ordon 7, Itaas 6, Sabanagn 4, Apasan 2, Diyo 2.

Pacquiao meets Horn, starts to prep for 'Battle of Brisbane'



BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—Manny Pacquiao has had bigger,

more significant fights while compiling world titles in an unprecedented eight divisions.

The 38-year-old senator from the Philippines may not have fought in front of a bigger crowd, though, than what promoters are predicting for Pacquiao's "Battle of Brisbane" on July 2 against Jeff Horn.

The on-again-off-again fight was confirmed after a rich deal for a Pacquiao-Amir Khan bout in the Middle East fell through.

Pacquiao and Horn met for the first time Wednesday at the venue where local promoters are expecting a crowd of 55,000 for the WBO welterweight world title bout.

That, at least according to veteran American promoter Bob Arum, would beat Pacquiao's biggest live crowd to date—50,994 at Cowboys Stadium in Texas.

Suncorp Stadium, usually the home ground for the Brisbane Broncos in Australia's National Rugby League and the annual State-of-Origin rugby league grudge match, has witnessed pretty of brawls, but none of them sanctioned like this one.

Pacquiao is putting his

WBO title on the line against Horn, a trained teacher who took up boxing because he was bullied at high school, had his first professional bout in 2013, and is 16-0-1.

"If you ask inside my heart, I have confidence to win the fight, but I'm not taking it lightly," said Pacquiao, who has 11 major world titles and has a record of 59-6-2, with 38 knockouts. "I'm not underestimating him."

Since losing to Floyd Mayweather in Las Vegas in April, 2015, a fight which generated a world record 4.4 million pay-per-view buys, Pacquiao has had two fights—wins over Tim Bradley and Jessie Vargas on either side of a brief retirement. The win over Vargas in November earned Pacquiao his third reign as the WBO welterweight champion.

When Pacquiao arrived in Australia, he said he didn't know a lot about Horn, but knew the 29-year-old Australian had the kind of style that would make for an entertaining fight.

"I want an opponent that wants to fight toe-to-toe, throwing a lot of punches, aggressive," Pacquiao said. "My style is to throw a lot of punches and I believe that will be very effective for Jeff Horn's style. That's why I accepted this fight."

NMA

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Three more qualifying days (make-ups) are scheduled with Monday's (May 1) events (60m, 100m, 200m, and javelin) for Oleai, Brilliant Star, WSR, Agape, and Whispering Palms students. The same four events are slated for the May 2 qualifiers, but only students of Kagman, Koblerville, SIS, Whispering Palms, and Mt. Carmel will compete. For the last day of the qualifiers (May 3) U11, U13, U15, and U18

students from all schools can compete in the 60m, 100m, and 200m races, and javelin throw.

Meet director Elias Rangamar said that each student can enter as many events as they want, however he is encouraging schools to control their entries to finish the series of qualifiers before the sun sets.

Qualifiers from Saipan will be joined in the meet by Tinian and Rota students, who have already confirmed their participation to next month's championships.

TEEN

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Championship Qualifiers that will be held from Oct. 31 to Nov. 8. The Commonwealth players will be facing Australia for the first time and will also play against fellow East Asian Football Confederation members North Korea and Hong Kong.

"Obviously, North Korea and Australia are the favorites in our pool (Group J), but Hong Kong is also a tough opponent. Since we've never played against Australia before, we are relying on videos to study their style of

EASY

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In the other boys U18 division match this week, 670 Sonics XVIII defeated sister team 670 Sonics XVI, 52-44.

Roberto Paragados lifted the 670 Sonics XVIII to the win after scoring 11 points, 7 of them came in the second half where his squad gained cushion after the match ended in a deadlock by halftime, 18-all.

Paragados also got a lot of help in the second half with four of his teammates contributing at least 4 points

Scoring by halves: 18-18, 52-44.

Tuesday Game

NMI Rollers 73 — Abobo 13, Dancoe 11, Tengco 10, Fidelino 7, Factor 6, Kisa 6, Kapwich 4, Mendoza 4.

MCS 50 — Deleon Guerrero 11, Gamab 10, Santos 7, Cepeda 5, Yun 4, Richardson 4, Kiser 4, Minami 2.

Scoring by halves: 34-24, 73-50.

BOYS U15 Second Game

Ol'Aces Extreme 61 — Fernandez 21, Laiyo 9, Lajara

6, Castro 6, Lizama 5, Tabora 5, Mizutani 5, Lim 2, Sablan 2.

Young Warriors 59 — J. Norota 19, Kumuch 17, Salilin 10, Atalig 7, Lizama 2, Malonzo 2, M. Norita 2.

Scoring by halves: 25-23, 61-59.

Third Game

DYS/NMI Rollers 68 — Dela Cruz 14, Cruz 12, Cabrera 8, Gonzales 8, Valencia 6, Factor 5, Ong 5, Tenorio 2.

Agape 43 — Yang 13, Cai 12, Bo 6, S. Xu 4, Heng 4, T. Xu 2, Zheng 2.

Scoring by halves: 39-19, 68-43.

2017 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Richard Steele goes for a backhand return against Sam Ryu in their semis game in the boys U14 singles event in the 2017 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Sam Ryu makes a baseline return to Richard Steele.



La Mee Lam returns a shot from Dana Lee during their girls U10 singles game.



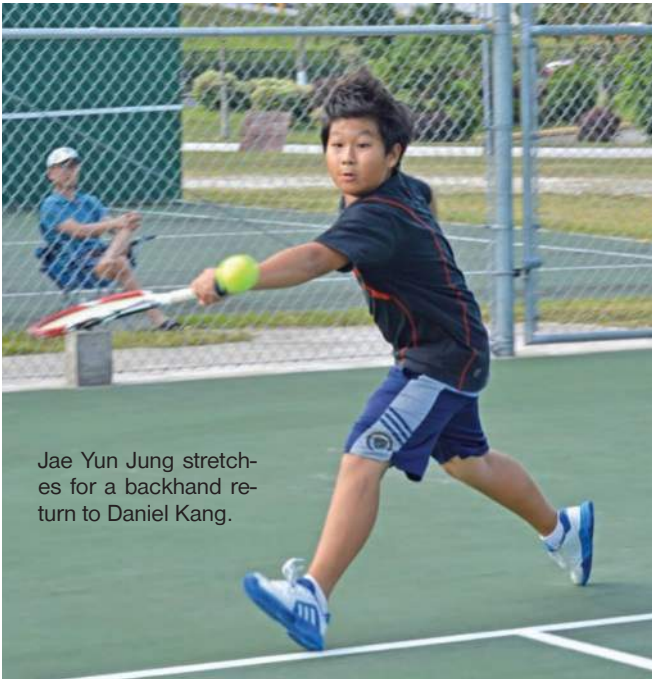
Hyunmin Cho serves to Andy Kim during their boys U14 singles match.



Andy Kim hits a low shot.



Daniel Kang gets ready to serve against Jae Yun Jung during their boys U12 singles semis tiff.



Jae Yun Jung stretches for a backhand return to Daniel Kang.



Dana Lee uses both her hands to receive a shot from La Mee Lam.



Rockets
advance with
105-99 win
over Thunder

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Coghlan's leap,
Stroman's hit
lift Blue Jays
vs Cards

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Easy victory for NMI Rollers vs MCS



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The NMI Rollers' Jude Tengco takes off for a layup against Mt. Carmel School's Myles Santos during the first half of their boys U18 division game in the Diaz youth caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The NMI Rollers downed Mt. Carmel School, 73-50, in the boys U18 division game in the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The NMI Rollers jumped to a 14-0 lead and never looked back for its third win.

Angelo Factor, Kenji



Abobo, and Jude Tengco alternately hit baskets in the NMI Rollers' good start, while the rest of their teammates

provided support in the ensuing quarters to hand their squad a 23-point winning margin.

Abobo top-scored for the NMI Rollers with his 13 points, while Factor and Tengco also finished in twin digits with 11 and 10 markers, respectively. Four other NMI Rollers players combined for 23 points

Tony Deleon Guerrero led the MCS Knights with his 11 points, while Kiko Gamab chipped in 7.

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NMA holds All Schools trials



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Three runners compete in the 400m qualifying race for the 2017 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships yesterday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The qualifiers for the 2017 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships are ongoing at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Yesterday, the organizing Northern Marianas Athletics held qualifying races in the boys and girls U7, U9, and U11's 400m and 800m with students from Oleai Elementary School, Saipan Community School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Agape Christian School, and Whispering Palms School scheduled to compete in the middle distance runs.

Today, the qualifiers for the boys and girls U11, U13, U15, and U18 are open to all schools. Events lined are

400m, 800m, 1,500m, and 3,000m runs and shot put and discus throw. Qualifiers in the 60m, 100m, and 200m runs and javelin throw for the same age group took place last Monday.

NMA had also set the qualifiers for the 400m, 800m, and 1,500m runs in the U7, U9, and U11 divisions for Kagman Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, Saipan International School, and Mount Carmel School last Tuesday, but no students showed up at the Hopwood field.

Students who missed this week and last's trials will still have a chance to qualify for the All Schools meet that will be held from May 11 to 13.

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Teen Ayuyus gearing up for AFC qualifiers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



With the CNMI U19 Boys National Team set to face three tough squads in the 2018 AFC U19 Championship Qualifiers, the Teen Ayuyus will need all the trainings they could get to keep up with their opponents.

"Right now, the boys U18 players are training three times week," said assistant coach Jershwin Angeles, who is conducting the pool's practices along with Jonathan Takano as Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director and head coach Michiteru Mita is still off-island.

Trainings sessions are held every Tuesday, Wednesday,

and Friday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa and Koblerville Elementary School Field. The group is using the Fiesta sand court for strength and condi-

tioning training, while team and individual drills are done at the Koblerville pitch from 4:30pm to 6:30pm or after school hours.

The Teen Ayuyus have about six months left to prepare for the 2018 AFC U19

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI U18 pool pose for a photo before a training match in Guam early this month.